

**Plainfield Public Library District  
National Library Week / Referendum Planning  
Open Houses  
April 14-18, 2015**

**Purpose**

Four open house sessions were held during National Library Week, using the theme “Unlimited Possibilities @Your Library” to begin gathering information about the community’s priorities and preferences for 21<sup>st</sup> century library services. The responses received will help the Library Board of Trustees to define their priorities for the building expansion. These priorities will be used to compare the relative value of concept plans for the current site (with and without retaining the current building) and a “greenfield” site. Development of the concept plans is the next step anticipated in the expansion planning process.

**Format**

The open houses were held in the Library’s Small Meeting Room:

- Tuesday, April 14, 6 – 8 pm
- Wednesday, April 15, 1-3 pm
- Thursday, April 16, 10 am – Noon
- Saturday, April 18, 10 am – Noon

At each event, posters showing 21<sup>st</sup> century library services were on display, along with a slide show of pictures showing each concept as a functional space (most included also on the posters). Posters included a space for additional comments on that concept, as well as a space to “vote” for that concept by placing a sticker on it. A large flip chart tablet and markers were available for sharing other ideas. A drawing to win a Kindle Fire was used as an incentive for attendance. Also available were sign up slips for those interested in learning more about the expansion planning process and/or participating future planning events. Library Director Julie Milavec, two Library Trustees and at least one additional library staff member attended each open house. Library staff also announced the open houses over the public address system at the start of the event and at least once during the event to encourage those in the Library to attend.

As participants entered, each was given 3 stickers to “vote” for the 21<sup>st</sup> century library services that they preferred by placing a sticker on that poster. Additional comments and ideas were encouraged. Also distributed was an accordion-fold mini-brochure titled “A Question of Space” detailing the changes in the community since 1990-1991 when the current facility opened its doors.

**Results**

**Attendance**

- Tuesday, April 14, 6 – 8 pm (approximate attendance: 15)
- Wednesday, April 15, 1-3 pm (approximate attendance: 15)
- Thursday, April 16, 10 am – Noon (approximate attendance: 15)

- Saturday, April 18, 10 am – Noon (approximate attendance: 30)  
Approximate attendance does not include staff and Trustees.

45 individuals entered the drawing for the Kindle Fire.

18 individuals requested to receive additional information about the expansion planning process.

In addition, the attendees at the English as a Second Language (ESL) programs held in the Small Meeting Room between the open house sessions also voted, approximately 16 additional individuals.

273 stickers were placed on posters to “vote”, for a total of 91 sets of 3 stickers used.

#### 21<sup>st</sup> century library services posters – stickers and comments

Performance Space (33 stickers)

Additional Ideas:

- Consider nearby buildings

Early Literacy Space (30 stickers)

Additional Ideas: no written comments

Digital Studios (26 stickers)

Additional Ideas: no written comments

Study Rooms (25 stickers)

Additional Ideas:

- I like the setup of the green chairs.
- I like this idea but it would be nice to have computers in this area as well – would like quiet areas to work
- Just have wi fi so people can use their own computer too

Quiet Space (22 stickers)

Additional Ideas:

- Phone cubicles

Outdoor Space (21 stickers)

Additional Ideas:

- This would be great if we have extra space outside
- Love this. I am a master gardener and would love this!

Classrooms (20 stickers)

Additional Ideas:

- Love this - no more stickers
- Multi-use study/class/meetings, varied sizes

#### Teen Space (19 stickers)

##### Additional Ideas:

- Like this idea too, ran out of stickers
- This is a nice inviting space for kids to read and learn

#### Cafeteria (18 stickers)

##### Additional Ideas:

- Great idea
- Or just a snack & coffee area
  - -Yes

#### Meeting Spaces (15 stickers)

##### Additional Ideas:

- Put my sticker here - if I had more!!
- Multi-use study/class/mtgs

#### Maker Space (10 stickers)

Additional Ideas: no written comments

#### Used Bookstore (6 stickers)

##### Additional Ideas:

- Great

#### Tech-Enabled Study Rooms (3 stickers)

Additional Ideas: no written comments

#### Open Areas (2 stickers)

Additional Ideas: no written comments

#### Share Your Ideas - flip chart written comments

- Drive up book return (3 stickers)
- Hole punchers and paper shredding (2 stickers)
- Paper recycling service
- Art display area (1 sticker)
- I think they should have more series books in the children's section.
- Better promote book sale
- Space for tutors with computers
- Positives - always get what I need, staff, programs
- Challenge of meeting "digital natives" where they "live" - why space with electronic formats?

- Cultural programs - Lake Renwick - great blue herons, etc. Partnerships programs w/ Parks & Forest Dist. (1 sticker)
- Senior programs - veterans & families, senior men's programs, Smart Money Week, Triad, VA programs, Continue to partner
- Travel programs - Europe, Asia, Antarctica ☺, S. America, Alaska/Canada, Mexico
- Bathrooms - get rid of paper goods, Excelerator dryers, TP dispensers at Naperville Library
- Recycling program - shredding event
- Privacy screens for PCs (1 sticker)
- "Quiet Zone" reminders/signs (1 sticker)
- Cameras on computers so people can Skype. Charge \$2
- More activities for kids to learn to read
- Post Office substation (14 stickers)
- Soundproofing between rooms/floors
- Offset from street for a third floor with a patio garden on the front part of the offset for users to read outdoors
- Wi fi throughout the building
- Book store in future may become more popular as book disappear
- Extended hours
- Study carrels with headsets
- Love our ESL program- we are so lucky that we have such an extensive program. Thanks to Tania for all of her hard work
- I hope that we will always be able to offer this program

The Post Office Substation idea captured was shared by the ESL group outside of one of the regular open house sessions. Its votes were received mainly from that group (known due to times of sessions and ESL classes - and when the stickers were placed). Further investigation is needed to determine the services sought within that suggestion.

#### Other verbal comments received

- Demonstration kitchen
- Stay downtown
- North and west of downtown
- Concern about impact on local business if library moves out of downtown
- Quiet space with computers available
- Book lockers
- Catering to millennials, electronics, online access, everything online, why need space?
- Mother's room / prayer room

### Other written comments received (responses to Open House invitation by those unable to attend)

- I use the library if my computer is on the fritz or don't have time to get hit [sic] home. I think most students use it for research or a quiet place to study. Life is so different now with the Internet at your fingertips. In school I was in the library all the time. Field trips at the library is good for elementary school students. I like the programs you offer too. Especially for small businesses.
- Referendums are always a hard sell but the preparation is so enlightening. Libraries are an invaluable resource if residents take advantage of them.
- I am wondering how libraries are going to change in the next 10 years or so with all of the ebooks, online access etc. I know the library wants to rebuild/expand, but something tells me libraries will actually become smaller with everything being online.

### Summary of Results

Using the percentage of votes received, the 21 services that received votes cluster naturally into four groups with a break of at least 1% between them. The top two, Performance Space and Early Literacy Space, received a combined 23.2%. The next cluster of seven services received a combined 55.4%. The third cluster of four services received 16.1%. The final cluster of eight received only 4.8% combined.

The top five services received a combined 49.9% of the total votes.

Performance space - 12.1% (33 of 273)  
Early Literacy Space - 11.0% (30 of 273)  
Digital Studios - 9.5% (26 of 273)  
Study Rooms - 9.2% (25 of 273)  
Quiet Space - 8.1% (22 of 273)  
Outdoor Space - 7.7% (21 of 273)  
Classrooms - 7.3% (20 of 273)  
Teen Space - 7.0% (19 of 273)  
Cafeteria - 6.6% (18 of 273)  
Meeting Spaces - 5.5% (15 of 273)  
Post Office substation - 5.1% (14 of 273)  
Maker Space - 3.3% (10 of 273)  
Used Bookstore - 2.2% (6 of 273)  
Tech-Enabled Study Rooms - 1.1% (3 of 273)  
Drive up Book Return - 1.1% (3 of 273)  
Open Areas 0.7% (2 of 273)  
Hole punchers and paper shredding - 0.7% (2 of 273)  
Art display area - 0.3% (1 of 273)  
Cultural programs - 0.3% (1 of 273)  
Privacy screens - 0.3% (1 of 273)  
"Quiet Zone" reminders - 0.3% (1 of 273)

# Appendix A Open House Posters

## PERFORMANCE SPACE

With an auditorium like this, the Library could offer:

- Movie screenings
- Cooking programs
- Library teen theater productions
- Professional musical performances
- Professional theater productions
- Musical recitals by local children
- Author talks/book signings
- Art and culture series
- Magic programs

- Candidate nights during elections
- Rent to local entities (Park District, Village, Chamber)
- Training—region-wide, such as weather-spotting
- Toastmasters contests
- The Great Read events
- Community Choir performances
- Community theatre performances
- Poetry slams
- Musical performances from outside groups (Coblet Symphony, School of Rock)




### Additional Ideas

(Let us know what you think)

Do you like this concept? Place your sticker here!

## EARLY LITERACY SPACE

These interactive and creative spaces for children would encourage the development of early literacy skills.






### Additional Ideas

(Let us know what you think)

Do you like this concept? Place your sticker here!

## DIGITAL STUDIOS

This space would offer:

- Video shooting, production
- Video editing
- Recording podcasts
- Designing a website
- VHS to DVD conversion









### Additional Ideas

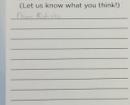
(Let us know what you think)

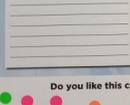
Do you like this concept? Place your sticker here!

## QUIET SPACE

Quiet spaces would offer a non-disruptive, silent place for people to read, relax and study.








### Additional Ideas

(Let us know what you think)

Do you like this concept? Place your sticker here!

## STUDY ROOMS

This space would offer:

- Space for small group collaborative work
- Tutor Space
- Business meetings for home-based businesses
- Professional musical performances
- Individual study space








### Additional Ideas

(Let us know what you think)

Do you like this concept? Place your sticker here!

## OUTDOOR SPACE

An outdoor space could provide a garden to the community and offer a place to read. The Library would also be able to host more programs outside.






### Additional Ideas

(Let us know what you think)

Do you like this concept? Place your sticker here!

## CLASSROOMS

This space would offer:

- Adult Literacy courses and ESL
- Conversation, Reading, and Grammar Clubs
- Citizenship courses
- Distance Education courses
- Proctoring of exams
- Computer/technology classes, such as:
  - Microsoft software
  - Photo Editing software
  - Social Media
- Ongoing continuing education courses, such as:
  - Master Gardener
  - Home Improvement
  - Writing Series
  - Photography

**Additional Ideas**  
(Let us know what you think!)

Do you like this concept? Place your sticker here!

## TEEN SPACE

This space would offer a cool, comfy place for teens to hang out, study and use technology.

**Additional Ideas**  
(Let us know what you think!)

Do you like this concept? Place your sticker here!

## CAFETERIA

An independent, third-party run cafe serving coffee and light refreshments.

**Additional Ideas**  
(Let us know what you think!)

DO JUST A SNACK, COFFEE, JUICE

Do you like this concept? Place your sticker here!

## MEETING SPACES

Large and small meeting spaces could be used for local organization meetings, business meetings, book club meetings, home owner's association meetings, and more.

**Additional Ideas**  
(Let us know what you think!)

Do you like this concept? Place your sticker here!

## MAKER SPACE

This space could offer:

- 3D printers
- Laser printers
- Do-it-Yourself collaborative creating and inventing
- Crafts and other foods created by technology
- Other electronics

**Additional Ideas**  
(Let us know what you think!)

Do you like this concept? Place your sticker here!

## USED BOOKSTORE

This space would be designated for the Friends of the Library's ongoing sale of books, CDs, DVDs, etc., raising funds for the Library.

**Additional Ideas**  
(Let us know what you think!)

Do you like this concept? Place your sticker here!



## Appendix B Share Your Ideas

