



To: Board of Library Trustees

From: Anthony Auston, Director

Date: Tuesday, November 19, 2024

Re: Strategic Facilities Plan Final Project Report

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For nearly a decade, the library has projected a future renovation of the first and lower levels of the building to meet the evolving needs of the community and to address industry trends in customer service models, display and presentation of the collections, and to position the building to be more adaptable to innovations for years to come. In 2022, the library conducted community surveys to identify how well the library serves its patrons, how it can improve, and to develop priorities for its next strategic plan. Reflecting on this feedback, in 2023, the board approved updated mission, vision, and value statements for the library concurrent with the approval of the 2023-27 strategic plan. One of the early priorities of the plan was to “revitalize and reimagine the first and lower level of the library,” which would begin in fiscal year 2023-24 with the initiative to “complete a responsive space needs assessment to inform and establish priorities for service design and capital planning.” The board and staff anticipated that the assessment and any potential subsequent renovation project would be funded entirely from the library’s Special Reserve Fund, a special restricted fund comprised of prior General Fund surplus revenues that were set aside exclusively for capital maintenance and development projects.

In late 2023, the library engaged with Engberg Anderson Architects, the same consultants who conducted the library’s comprehensive [Capital Reserve Study](#) in 2020, as well as the 2021 [Capital Repairs Project](#). Leveraging his intimate knowledge of Wilmette Public Library’s unique building addition and renovation history, architect and planning consultant Joe Huberty presented his [Strategic Facility Plan Project Proposal](#) to address the library’s goals, which was unanimously approved by the board on January 16, 2024.

Staff engagement and ideation commenced at Staff Development Day on April 19, where nearly 80 employees participated in a discussion of the project with a presentation with Mr. Huberty. Earlier that week, project planning began with the core team of stakeholders including multiple managers, along with trustees Fishman and O’Keefe, who all met with our architect and his partner Shaun Kelly on April 16 to officially kick-off our project, and then met again on May 9. In between these meetings, trustees comprehensively toured the library building to see challenges first-hand and to learn about some opportunities that staff had been exploring. Staff continued discussing the project among themselves and shared feedback with administration in response

to key question prompts built around the concepts of what aspects of the building and operations need to be preserved/retained, what spaces or services should be re-evaluated or discarded, and what spaces, services, collections or other aspects should be created as part of this project. Staff also explored their priorities for meeting the current and emerging needs of our community, informed by survey data, their own firsthand experience in direct public service and/or awareness of emerging trends, and the anticipated impacts of innovations driving our industry and culture.

Having compiled this feedback and recognizing that the aspirations of all parties (public, board, and staff) far exceeded what the library had budgeted for the renovation of the first and lower levels, in July our architectural consultants presented a series of scenarios to the core team that they estimated would each total approximately \$3 million (the targeted budget established in the Special Reserve Fund Plan in 2018). These concepts included comprehensive projects for each the first and lower levels, and a third option combining the priority elements of both. The core team, by unanimous consensus, agreed that the third option representing the best of the best options for both floors was the most prudent approach and would net the most significant and most valuable impact for all.

Our consultants spent the subsequent few weeks designing the concepts for the selected approach to the project and workshopped elements of the 2 floors with the director to ensure the goals were on target. In late August, the concept models were readied and our construction management partners at Shales-McNutt (who previously provided construction management of our 2019 [Outdoor Renovation Project](#) and 2021 [Capital Repairs Project](#)) joined the conversation. Together, all partners reviewed the concepts and the Shales-McNutt team unpacked the details of the components to verify the cost estimates.

While the consultants and staff began preparing for community engagement sessions that were planned for October, Shales-McNutt delivered the shocking news that, based upon various similar projects they've worked on this past year, the construction management team believed the architect's estimate for the project as proposed in July/August as \$3 million would likely bid around \$6 million by early 2025.

Recognizing that the total fund balance of the Special Reserve Fund is approximately \$6 million, and the library still has an estimated \$5.5 million worth of long range capital maintenance projects to accomplish through 2040, as well as other anticipated projects (including subsequent equipment replacements and any potential future renovation of the second floor and grounds), it was clear that the project suddenly looked far more impactful to the library's long range financial picture than previously planned.

As the library was concurrently engaged with its long range financial consultant, Andrew Kim of PMA Securities, who has supplied a 20 year financial plan to the library for the past 3 years, the board and administration evaluated scenarios that explored the impacts of capital projects in the Special Reserve Fund, including a range of alternative sources of funding and financing.

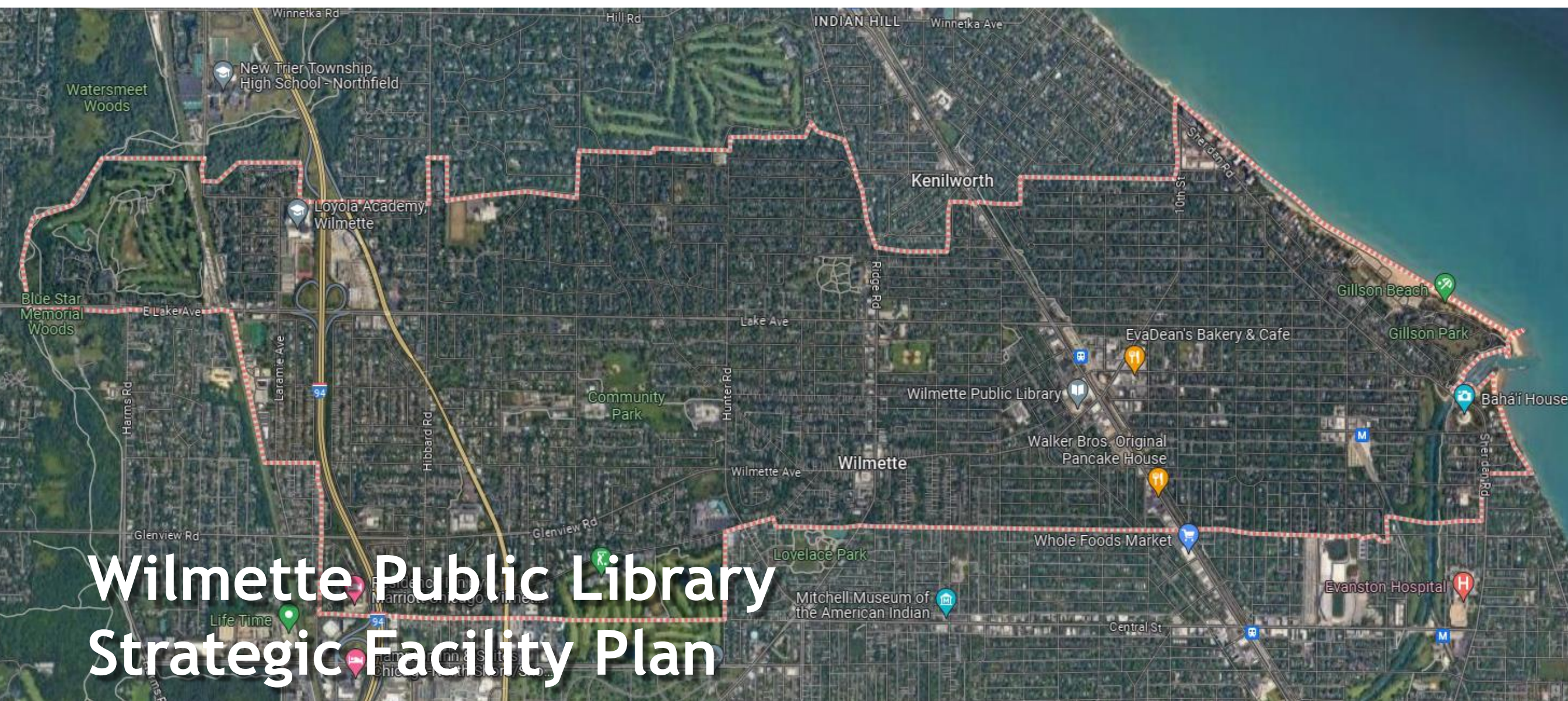
Given a series of reductive actions to the levy in the past decade, the General Fund operating budget has recently been running a deficit (partly by design to align the balance with the expectations of Fund Balance Policy’s goal to retain 6 months to 1 year of general operating funds in reserve). With no surplus funds in the General Fund, there have been no new transfers to the Special Reserve Fund, such that the only growth in that fund is related to investment interest. The library had generally assumed that a renovation project would likely be accomplished through cash on-hand in the Special Reserve Fund, but we now collectively recognize that even a smaller scale project may require government financing - which may also be challenging to secure given that Mr. Kim’s report shows a trendline of rising expenses exceeding projected revenues for the foreseeable future unless that course is corrected.

In an effort to sustain the library’s commitment to its strategic plan goals while also keeping costs manageable, the architectural team and director worked together to create a smaller “demonstration project”, presenting key priorities of the original project plan in an even smaller strategic proposal that could function as the first phase of a larger project and help to build interest and support for such an initiative. The targeted budget for this late effort was \$1 million and focused on the opportunities afforded by renovating the circulation lobby and service desk model as well as the conversion of the genre fiction room. While intended to open a flexible range of possibilities for incremental, internal, low- to no-cost moves until funding could be secured for a more comprehensive renovation in the future, the project ultimately offered more questions than answers in the waning final days of the library’s planned engagement cycle with the architect for this project.

Nevertheless, the Strategic Facility Plan fulfilled its promise to deliver a compelling inventory and analysis of Wilmette Public Library’s building, its strengths, opportunities for improvement, and a set of concepts that highlight the ambition and aspirations of the library and community, and how emerging trends may drive new, reimagined, and transformative use of its spaces - including looking outside the limitations of the existing building.

The following report summarizes the findings of this year’s study in the context of the library’s strategic plan goals as informed by the recent community survey, statistical trends, and peer comparisons, and represents an informed and insightful vision for our library from a leading expert in the industry. We’re grateful for the partnership we’ve shared with Engberg Anderson Architects, and we thank architect Joe Huberty for his creativity, expertise, and holistic approach in learning about our building, our staff, our community, and our emerging needs. This report opens a realm of possibilities and will undoubtedly inspire curiosity, engagement, and enthusiasm about the future of Wilmette Public Library.

Staff plan to study the findings and options presented, evaluate scalable opportunities, and develop plans to revisit the key concepts following further capital reserve analysis and the onboarding of potential new members of the board following the next election in spring 2025.



# Wilmette Public Library Strategic Facility Plan

Draft Report | September 6, 2024



# Key Drivers, Recommendations, Implementation Strategies

The recommended Strategic Facility Plan (SFP) is constructed from multiple inputs including the 2022 Community Survey, the Library's Mission, Vision, and Values statements, and the Strategic Plan.

It used a multi-step process to address patron frustrations, concerns, and barriers, support traditional and emerging service patterns, leverage recent improvements, and continue to present useful, attractive spaces that meet community expectations. It includes recommendations for a satellite facility and improvements to each level in the existing building.

## KEY DRIVERS

Through this process the planning team identified six drivers that in turn defined three key goals.

### ➤ ADDRESS GEOGRAPHIC LIBRARY RESOURCE INEQUITIES.

**1 – Consider providing a physical presence at the west end of the District** to improve access and increase utilization rates and reduce resident's dependence on neighboring libraries.

This facility could also provide some of the space needed to support services that cannot fit in the existing building.

### ➤ ADDRESS MAJOR SERVICE CHALLENGES.

**2 – Renovate the Lower Level to address major deficiencies**, improve effectiveness, replace worn finishes, address safety concerns. This is a vastly

underutilized space that is unattractive, fights efforts to present the collection to patrons, and has a "creepy" feel to many.

**3 – Reorganize the First Floor to simplify function and navigation**, reduce barriers, improve access, reduce behavioral issues, increase circulation, and increase patron satisfaction while improving staff efficiency.

**4 – Modify the Second Floor to improve acoustic separations between quiet and active areas**, improve access to individual and small group workspaces, update worn finishes and increase opportunities for patrons to find quiet, attractive spaces that support their use patterns and service needs.

### ➤ ADDRESS MAJOR CONDITION ISSUES

**5 – Reconstruct the First Floor Restrooms** to improve access, increase fixture count, and provide staff restroom.

### ➤ PREPARE FOR FUTURE PROJECTS THAT ADDRESS SPACE CONSTRAINTS.

**6 – Simplify and ultimately expand the Children's Services area** to support more patrons in a wider variety of more effective learning environments.

**7 – Adjust the Third Floor to increase safety and improve public access** to administrative services, support staff function, and reduce use of overburdened public use spaces on the lower three floors of the building.

# The Vision



# The Vision

*Opposite:*

Lobby as seen from Entry

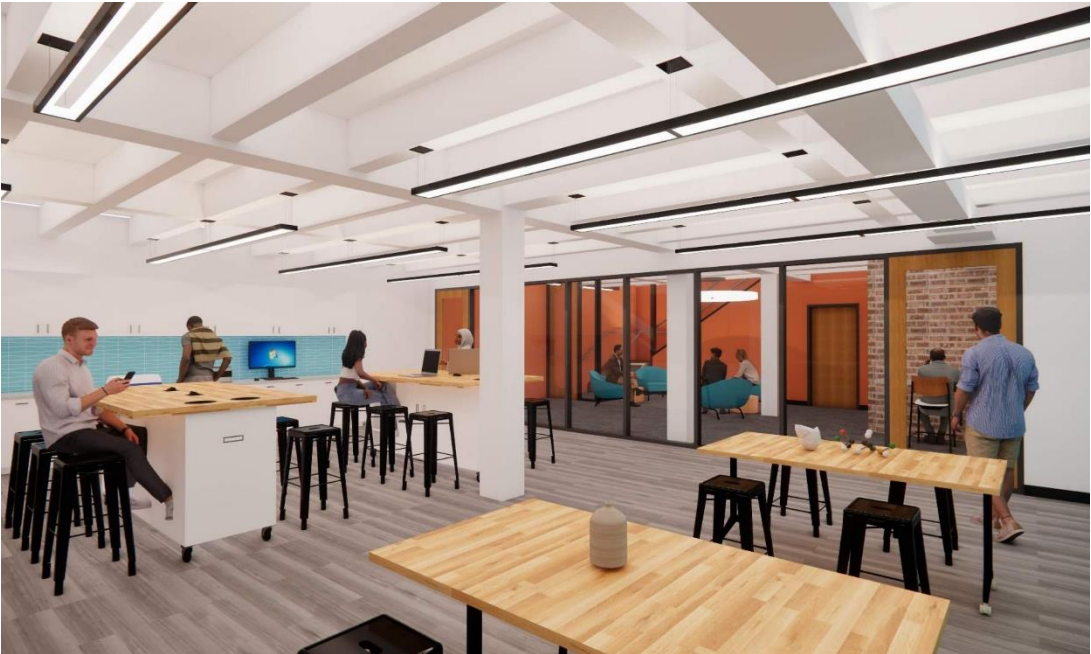
*From top left clockwise:*

Computer Room and new Northwest Stair

Maker Space

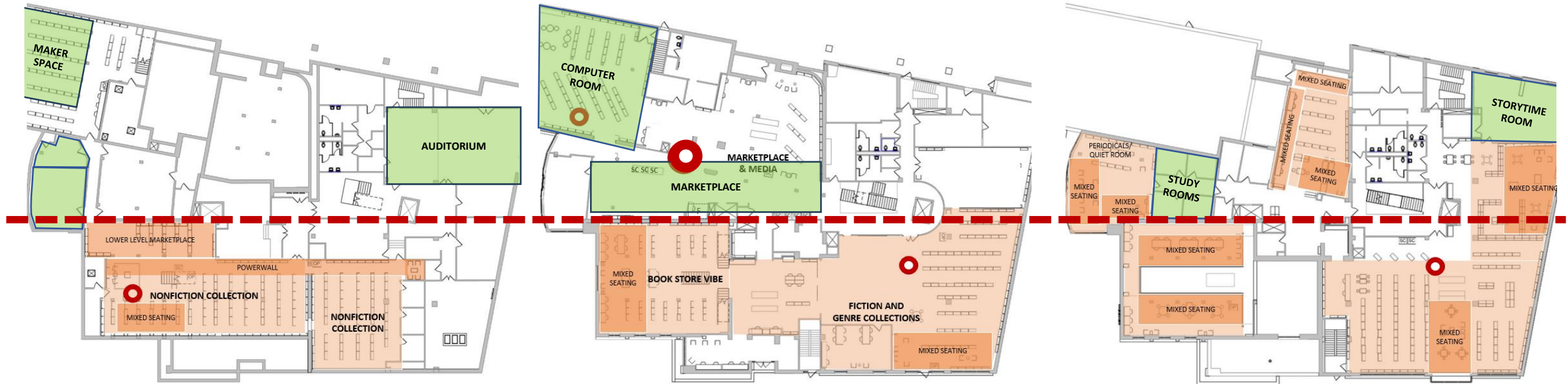
Lower Level Service Point and Seating Area

Lower Level Marketplace and Central Stair



# The Plan

➤ Align uses on each floor to simply understanding of the building. Group collections and quiet areas together on the south, active spaces to the north.



## Lower Level

Non-fiction and quiet reading spaces are to the south.

Active destinations spaces are to the north:

- Auditorium
- Local History & Genealogy
- Digitization Studio
- Maker Space

## First Floor

Fiction and quiet reading spaces are to the south. The compartments of the building create a series of linked neighborhoods

Active destinations spaces are to the north:

- Entry/Arrival/Check-out
- Marketplace
- Computer Room

## Second Floor & Mezzanine

An extension of the bookstore feel of the Fiction area is housed on the upper level of the Mezzanine.

Destination spaces are at the end of pathways to the north:

- Storytime Room
- Study / Project Rooms
- Quiet Reading / Periodicals Room



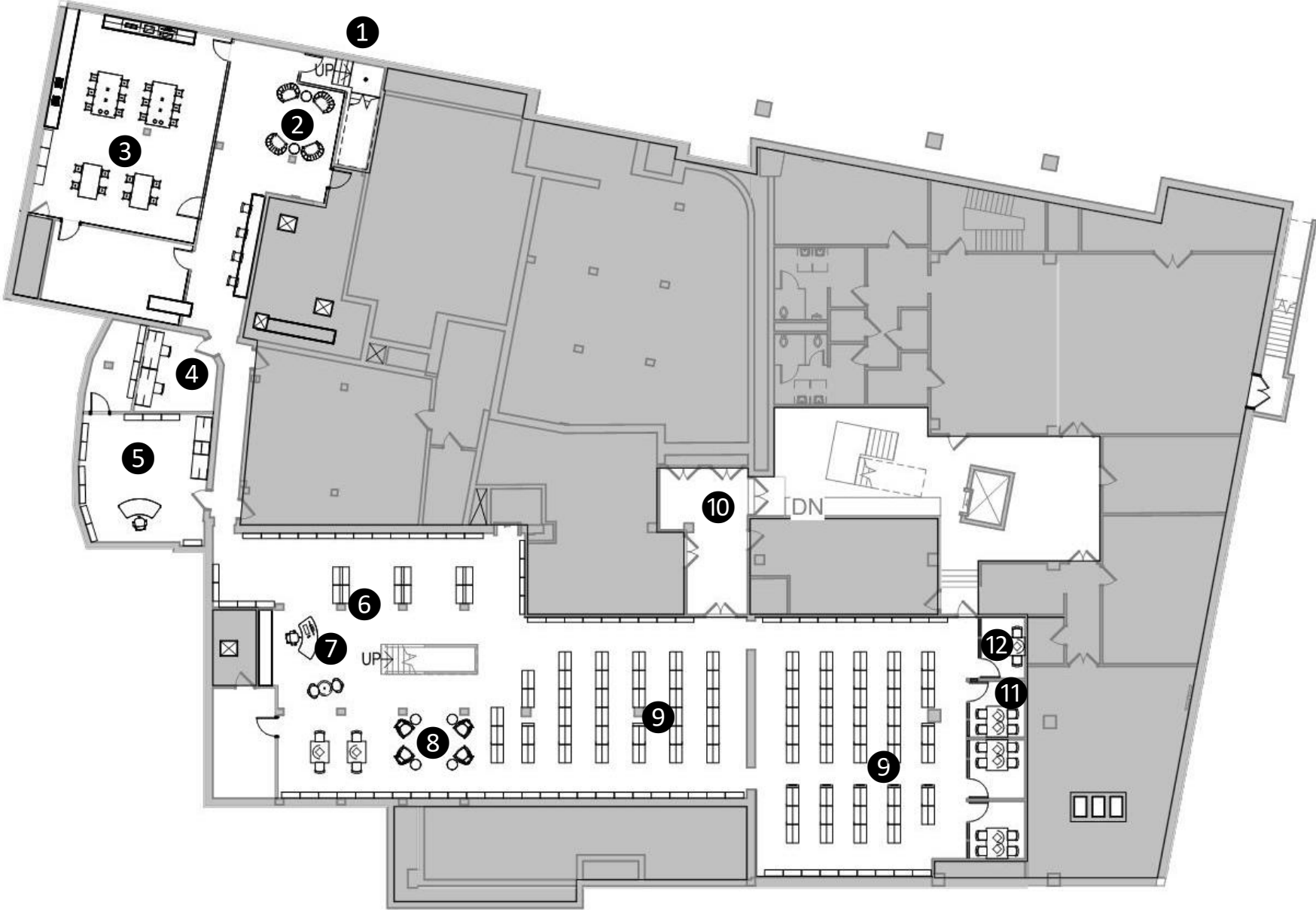
# 6a | Recommendation: Transformation

## Lower Level

### NOTES

Test Fit – Diagrammatic only. Specifics to be determined if concept is selected for continued development.

- 1. Northwest Stair
- 2. Patron Lounge and Vending
- 3. Maker Space
- 4. Digitization Studio
- 5. Local History & Genealogy
- 6. Lower Level Marketplace
- 7. Public Service Point
- 8. Central Seating Area
- 9. Non-Fiction Collections
- 10. Accessible Connection to Auditorium Lobby
- 11. Project Rooms
- 12. Low Sensory Room



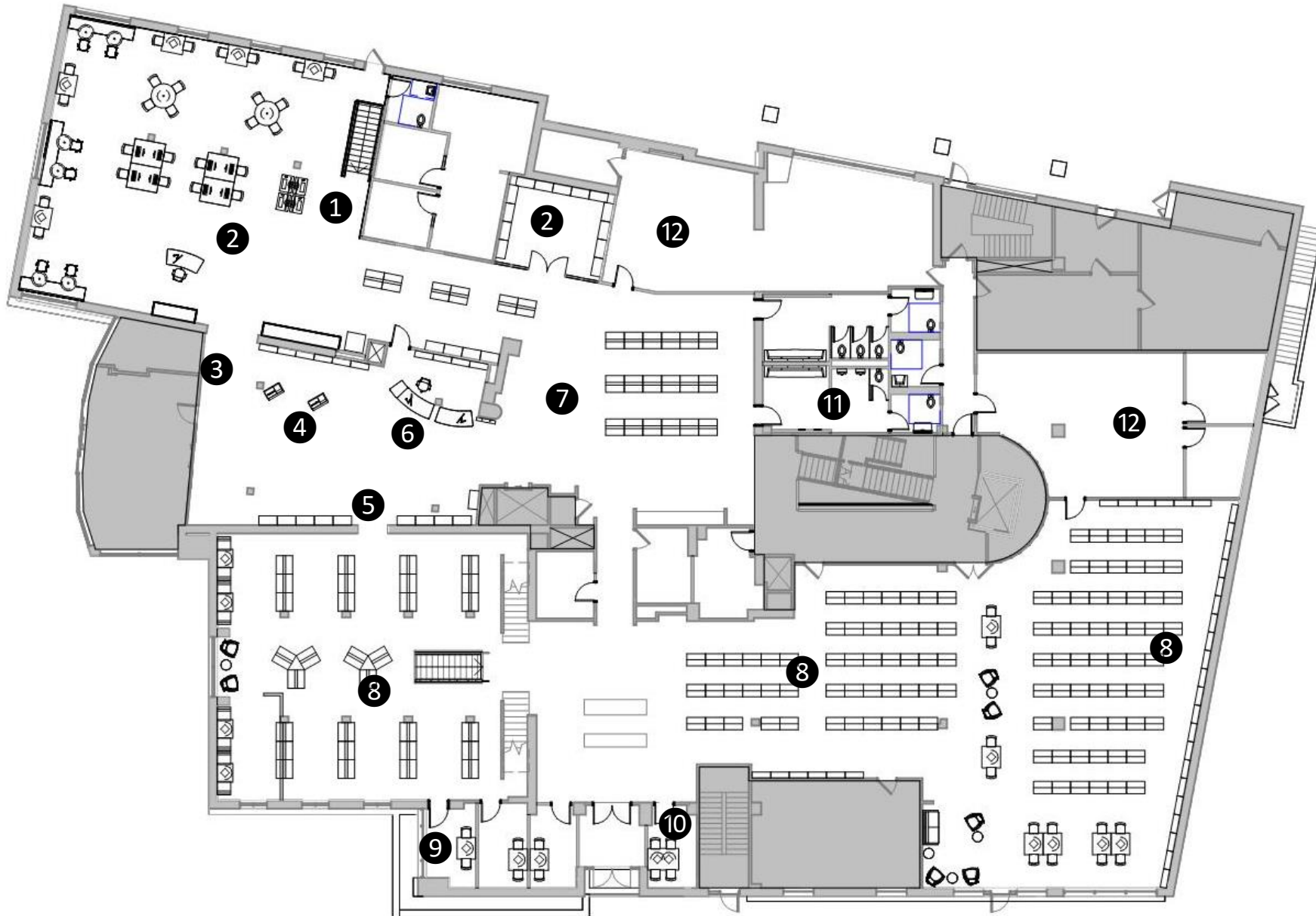
# 6a | Recommendation: Transformation

## 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

### NOTES

Test Fit – Diagrammatic only.  
Specifics to be determined if  
concept is selected for continued  
development.

- 1. Northwest Stair
- 2. Computer Room
- 3. Entry to Computer Room from Lobby
- 4. Lobby, Holds, Self-Check
- 5. Entry to Fiction & Genre Collections
- 6. Public Service Point - Circulation
- 7. Media
- 8. Fiction & Genre Collections
- 9. Project Rooms
- 10. Low Sensory Room
- 11. Renovated Restroom
- 12. Staff Workrooms



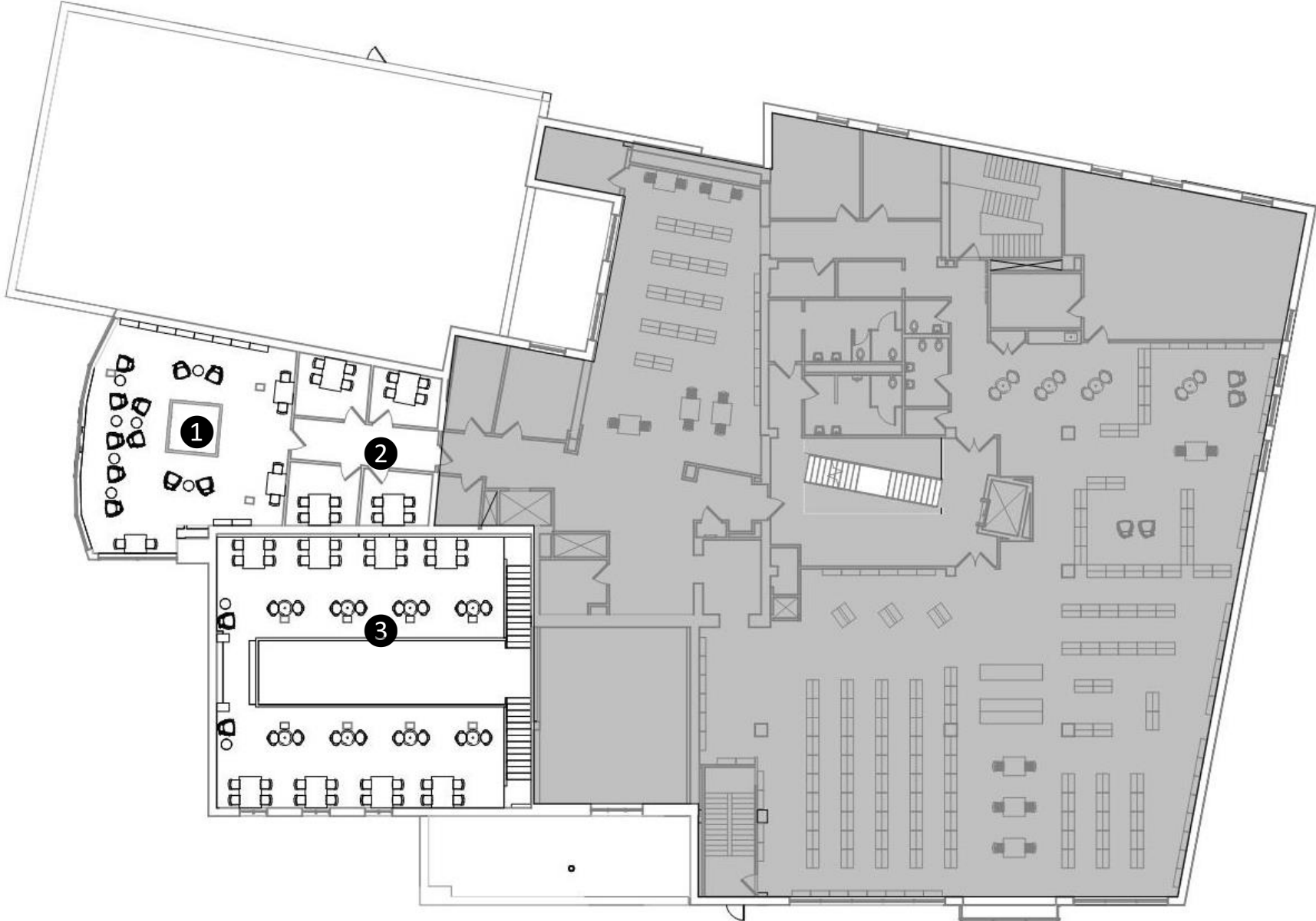
# 6a | Recommendation: Transformation

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

### NOTES

Test Fit – Diagrammatic only.  
Specifics to be determined if  
concept is selected for continued  
development.

- 1. Periodicals Room with fireplace to create multiple quiet seating zones
- 2. Acoustically enhanced Project Rooms
- 3. Multiple seating environments



## 6a | Recommendation: Transformation – Full Vision

	Component	High Range	Low Range	Timing
1	Lower Level – Basics	\$1,977,901	\$1,839,448	
2	Lower Level – Link to Lobby	\$80,276	\$74,657	F
3	Lower Level – Fur-Out Walls	\$176,317	\$163,975	W/1
4	Lower Level – Exposed Ceilings in Collection Areas	\$177,367	\$164,951	W/1
5	First Floor	\$2,072,179	\$1,927,127	
6	Mezzanine – Both Levels	\$680,293	\$632,672	
7	First Floor – Study Rooms	\$350,452	\$325,920	F
8	Second Floor – Project Rooms & Periodicals	\$323,517	\$300,871	F
9	First Floor – Restrooms	\$550,140	\$511,630	W/5
	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,338,443</b>	<b>\$5,941,252</b>	

*F = Flexible timing. Improvements can be made at any time as a stand-alone project. Financial and patron experience benefits to wrapping this into the adjacent improvements*

*w/ = Needs to occur with line item listed to avoid significant cost premium for access/staging/overhead and reworking of recently completed work.*

## 6a | Recommendation: Transformation – Full Vision

More patron goals are met by more inclusive project.

Component		Improvements												
		Intuitive	Discovery	Accessible	Innovative	Attractive	Hands On	Quiet	Low Sensory	Local History	Unstructured Learning	More Seating	More Searing Options	Not Creepy
1	Full Vision	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	0	3	3	3
2	All the Basics	3	3	1	3	3	3	3	3	3	0	3	3	3
3	First Steps – Lower Level	1	2	1	2	2	3	3	2	3	0	2	2	3
4	First Steps – First Floor	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	2	0	0	2	2	0
5	Ad Hoc													

3 = significantly address objectives

2 = improvements made as possible within limitations of addressing only 1 level at a time

1 = improvement in immediate area, not necessarily integrated into a holistic patron experience

# 6a | Recommendation: Transformation – Full Vision

Strategy 2 makes good on the basic set of goals. Accessibility and performance options can follow.

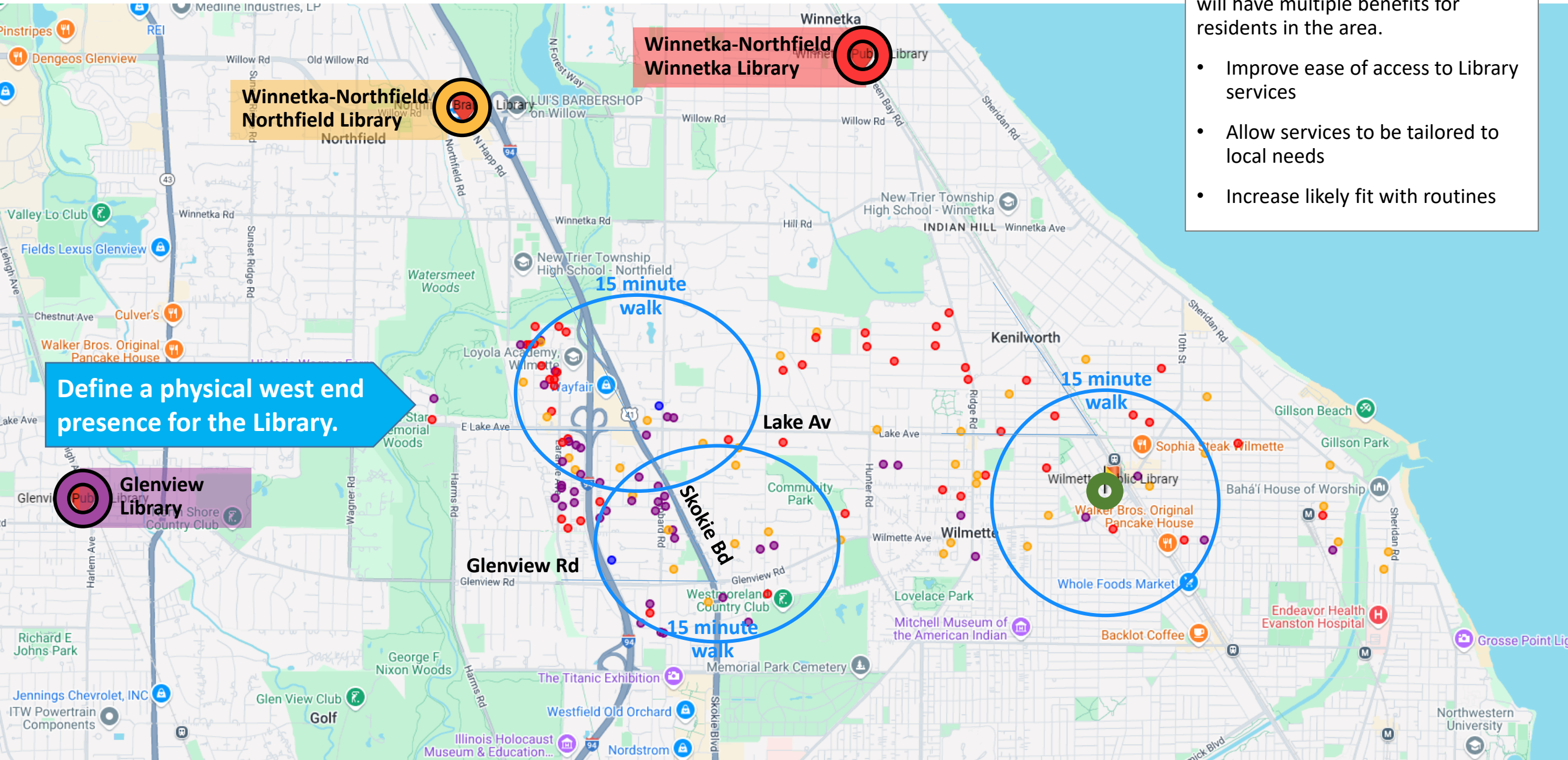
Strategies 3 and 4 do not work as stand-alone approach. Think of them as coming to a 2-stage implementation.

	Component	Score			Index	
		Points	Score (Points/Max)	UIUC Letter Grade	Cost (High) \$Millions	Points/\$Million
1	Full Vision	36	0.92	A	6.3	5.7
2	All the Basics	34	0.87	B	5.6	6.1
3	First Steps – Lower Level	26	0.67	D	2.0	13.1
4	First Steps – First Floor	16	0.41	F	3.3	4.8
5	Ad Hoc					

# Resident Use of Neighboring Libraries

A west end presence in some form will have multiple benefits for residents in the area.

- Improve ease of access to Library services
- Allow services to be tailored to local needs
- Increase likely fit with routines



<https://reports.ccslib.org/WILMETTE:DidNotUseWilmette.html>

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# Needs are Based on Community Inputs

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A Framework for Facility Improvements based on Services



# 1a

## The Planning Context: Mission, Vision, Values; Strategic Plan

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Mission, Vision, Values

# Space Need as Defined in the Context of the Library's Mission, Vision, & Values

The building is more confusing than welcoming.

The chaotic layout discourages discovery.

Collection is hidden in dense storage stacks.

Specialized services and collations are hampered.

Adaptation and innovation are limited by building.

Innovative merchandising trends are lagging peers.

## Mission

*Wilmette Public Library welcomes everyone with collections, resources, and experiences that enrich the lives of individuals and our community.*

## Vision

*Inspiring lifelong curiosity, exploration, and discovery*

## Values

*At Wilmette Public Library, we:*

- Champion intellectual freedom*
- Advance inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility*
- Promote literacy and a lifelong love of reading*
- Curate vibrant collections and experiences*
- Deliver specialized services and programming*
- Cultivate strong community connections*
- Establish and maintain valued partnerships*
- Promote stewardship of sustainable practices*
- Continuously evaluate, adapt, and innovate*
- Act with courtesy, initiative, creativity, and flexibility*

*Green italic text is from Wilmette Public Library sources.*

The Library as an institution and service is inviting and welcoming. and often presents wayfinding challenges to residents that would avail themselves of the services offered. This limits the number, length, and effectiveness of patron visits to the building.

- The path from entry to most services and spaces is lengthy, hidden, involves multiple levels, multiple doorways, and a labyrinth of columns and walls. As a result it is confusing and far short of intuitive.
- The curated adult and teen collections are divided among a series of spaces on the First Floor and Lower Level. Each are fragmented. The collections displayed in some of them are not heavily used or of highest interest to the community. In many instances, especially on the Lower Level, the collections are arranged in dense configurations of high stacks, narrow aisles, low ceilings and uneven lighting. This, along with the minimal use of contemporary display strategies, discourages many patrons from searching these collections.
- First Floor spaces are a mix of acoustic and activity levels without clear indication as to intended behaviors, resulting in confusion as to expected use and behavior.
- Efforts at experimentation with new services are challenged by existing room configurations and capabilities. New service offerings are thereby compromised or expensive to implement.

# The 2023-2027 Strategic Plan: Welcoming Environment

The chaotic layout confuses and frustrates patrons.

Space use is heavily skewed toward physical materials.

Lower Level accessibility is hampered by level changes.

Lower Level finishes and shelving are unattractive.

Collection flow is forced by building to be not intuitive.

Innovative merchandising trends are lagging peers.

**Outcomes** of the Library’s planning process to this point identified a number of key building or space related objectives. Most of these are a reflection of the fact sense that the patron experience of using the building falls short of the mission, vision and values statements that guide the Library.

- *Enhance and simplify the library experience*
- *Reflect the diverse interests and needs of our community*
  - *This includes allocating space for active, participatory, and social learning.*

**Priorities** for the Library include:

- *Highlight the wealth of resources offered in our building and collections in more accessible and visually appealing ways*
  - *This includes allocating space for topical presentation of new and older materials, encouraging discovery and discernment, blending social and individual exploration within collections, and using active display techniques to increase discovery.*
- *Curate and promote quality collections in a variety of formats*
  - *Careful weeding of the collections is needed to be maintain a relevance and enable a building wide space use balanced between collections and other services.*

*Green italic text is from Wilmette Public Library sources.*

- *Provide welcoming spaces to meet the evolving needs of our community*
  - *The building currently lacks spaces for digital media production and editing, low sensory environments, refreshments, display and use of rare and local historical resources, and unstructured learning for children.*
- *Foster a positive, collaborative work environment for all employees*
  - *The building currently suffers from small, fragmented staff spaces that limit efficiency and effectiveness, discourage collaboration, and result in bleeding of “back of house” functions into the public spaces of the building. This is exceptionally challenging in the Circulation Services work zone.*

**Initiatives** for FY23-24

- *Digitize, preserve, and enhance access to rare and unique local history resources*
- *Reallocate spaces for patron computer services to accommodate implementation of emerging technologies in a flexible, creative space*
  - *The current effort at providing Maker Space required displacement of public computing space, use of a room with inadequate ventilation and power, and consumed prime real estate. Residual space is inadequate for the displaced patron computer services.*

# The 2023-2027 Strategic Plan: Welcoming Environment

Outcomes of the Library identified a number of objectives. Most of a sense that the patron falls short of the mission that guide the Library.

- Enhance and strengthen
- Reflect the diverse community
  - This includes participatory

Priorities for the Library include:

- Highlight the work building and visually appealing
  - This includes allocating space for topical presentation of new and older materials, encouraging discovery and discernment, blending social and individual exploration within collections, and using active display techniques to increase discovery.
- Curate and promote quality collections in a variety of formats
  - Careful weeding of the collections is needed to be maintain a relevance and enable a building wide space use balanced between collections and other services.

**Experimental Maker Space need full service space.**

**Low Sensory Space is missing from all levels.**

**Historical and rare items are hidden, minimized.**

**Unstructured Learning area for children is too small.**

**Staff spaces are ineffective, small, & poorly located.**

- Provide welcoming spaces to meet the evolving needs of our community

- The building currently lacks spaces for digital media production and editing, low sensory environments, refreshments, display and use of rare and local historical resources, and unstructured learning for children.

- Foster a positive, collaborative work environment for all employees

- The building currently suffers from small, fragmented staff spaces that limit efficiency and effectiveness, discourage collaboration, and result in bleeding of “back of house” functions into the public spaces of the building. This is exceptionally challenging in the Circulation Services work zone.

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*Green italic text is from Wilmette Public Library sources.*

# The 2023-2027 Strategic Plan: Connected Community

The chaotic layout confuses and frustrates patrons.

Innovative merchandising trends are lagging peers.

Experimental Maker Space need full service space.

Historical and rare items are hidden, minimized.

Unstructured Learning area for children is too small.

## Outcomes

- *Empower individual growth and an expanded mindset*
- *Foster belonging and understanding*

## Priorities

- *Increase awareness and use of the library and its programs, resources, and services using existing popular channels of communication*
  - *This easiest way to increase awareness and use is to use existing space to raise awareness of new (or previously unknown or hidden) services.*
- *Explore and facilitate opportunities to grow and strengthen strategic partnerships*
  - *This could be locating extended library services with partners as well as hosting services or events at the Library.*
- *Enhance early literacy, experiential, and lifelong learning opportunities*
  - *This includes local history, digital media lab, library of things, and maker space for multiple age groups, and unstructured learning/play for children.*

*Host and promote public forums for residents to explore and discuss topics affecting our community*

*Green italic text is from Wilmette Public Library sources.*

## Initiatives for FY23-24

- *Develop and implement a unified branding and style manual to guide staff in creating library communications that are consistent, creative, and effective*
  - *These attributes should be assigned to wayfinding in the building to promote ease of use, discovery, and awareness of intended use and behaviors.*
- *Develop and implement a framework for collecting feedback about services and programs*
  - *And space use!*
- *Optimize accessibility to our collections and services through the website and app*
  - *The accessibility services on the website need parallels in the building including low sensory spaces on each level of the building.*

# The 2023-2027 Strategic Plan: Sustainable Future

Long range capital planning is on-going.

Basic planning addresses physical integrity.

Library planning addresses effective utility.

### Outcomes

- *Meet and anticipate future needs*
- *Preserve and promote the assets of the district*

### Priorities

- *Prepare trustees to represent the interests of stakeholders through comprehensive orientation and continued development*
- *Conduct responsive and informed long-range capital planning*
  - *This includes on-going capital repairs as well as adaptive reuse of legacy space uses as outlined below.*
- *Maintain building, grounds, and physical operations with sustainable and environmentally responsible practices*
- *Revitalize and reimagine the first floor and lower level of the library*

### Initiatives for FY23-24

- *Continuously evaluate technological assets to optimize efficient system solutions, including building automation, networked communication, and computing environments*
- *Complete responsive space needs assessment to inform and establish priorities for service design and capital planning*
  - *This is the specific goal of this study.*

*Green italic text is from Wilmette Public Library sources.*

# 1b

## The Planning Context: Community Survey

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What Does the 2022 Community Survey Tell Us?



## Community Survey Summary Spring 2022

### Spaces in the Building

The building is one of the most important facets of the Wilmette library experience. Community interest in the building is wide ranging, from prioritizing the collection to improving comfortable seating to the availability of spaces for groups to meet.

#### What you're looking for:

- A building that can accommodate multiple library activities and needs under one roof
- More seating options and comfortable quiet spaces to read and browse materials
- Shelving that makes browsing easier
- A creative space with tools like a 3D printer and laser cutter
- Quiet rooms for meetings and remote work
- A community outdoor space

#### What you can already find:

- Maker equipment for all ages available by appointment, including a 3D printer and vinyl cutter
- Four floors of shelving
- Programs for children and teens
- Seating options for pre-pubescent children
- Comfortable quiet spaces
- Zoned areas for different activities

#### What you're looking for:

- A building that can accommodate multiple library activities and needs under one roof
- More seating options and comfortable quiet spaces to read and browse materials
- Shelving that makes browsing easier
- A creative space with tools like a 3D printer and laser cutter
- Quiet rooms for meetings and remote work
- A community outdoor space



240 Respondents listed library spaces as a priority;  
49 Seeking a quiet place to read; 37 seeking a place to work or study  
65 Looking for a place to be with the community; 89 some combination

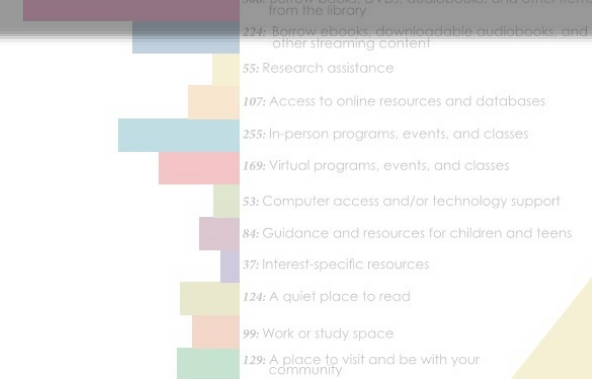
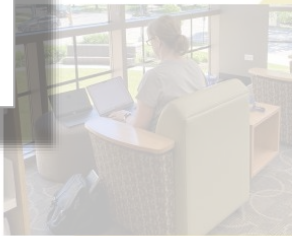
422 Respondents enjoy library programs  
138 Prefer in-person programs; 52 Prefer virtual programs;  
232 Enjoy both virtual and in-person programs



This spring, library leadership began a strategic planning process to help guide the library and our community to learn how we can improve the library, and sent it out to the community over the course of two weeks. We received your feedback for the library with us.

### Why correlations?

What would you add or improve?  
Community, what would you add?  
Following pages.  
Addressing the Collections





## Spaces in the Building

The building is one of the most important facets of the Wilmette library experience. Community interest in the building is wide ranging, from prioritizing the collection to improving comfortable seating to the availability of spaces for groups to meet.

### What you're looking for:

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- More seating options and comfortable quiet spaces to read and browse materials
- Shelving that makes browsing easier
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- Quiet rooms for meetings and remote work
- A community outdoor space

### What you can already find:

- Maker equipment for all ages available by appointment, including a 3D printer and vinyl cutters
- Four reserveable study rooms on the second floor and workstations and tables throughout the first floor and lower level
- Programs on the Library Lawn for adults and children

Where do you live?

Spaces in the Building

Services for Children & Families.

Accessing the Collections.

232 Enjoy both virtual and in-person programs

240 Respondents listed library spaces as a priority;  
 49 Seeking a quiet place to read; 37 seeking a place to work or study  
 65 Looking for a place to be with the community; 89 some combination



## Community Survey Summary Spring 2022

This spring, library leadership began a strategic planning process to help guide the library for the next three to five years. At the end of April, we surveyed the community to learn how you use the library and what you'd like to see from the library, and our community, in the future. We made the survey available on our website and in the library, and sent it out to the community in our email newsletter and on our facebook page. Over the course of two weeks, nearly 600 community members shared their ideas and aspirations for the library with us.

### We surveyed the community on five questions:

- Where do you live?
- Do you have a library card?
- What are the primary reasons you use your library?
- What experiences or resources would you like the library to add or improve?
- If you could add one resource or experience to your community, what would you add?

We identified three major trends, which are explored on the following pages.

**Spaces in the Building | Services for Children & Families | Accessing the Collections**

### What are the primary reasons you use your library?

558 respondents chose all applicable responses.





time to bring back the energy kids activities at the library!"

"Clearer way to find books on my own"  
**'More books!'** "STEAM devices like 3D printers"  
 "More and more ebooks"

## Accessing the Collection

More kid-friendly furnishings and shelving.

Areas for unstructured play (and their caregivers).

Readers advisory for tweens and middle grades.

Low sensory area.

### Services for Children

Finding resources and activities for children is one of your top priorities. Whether you're looking for a storytime, a STEAM activity, or a few hours to browse books, we want to help you engage with our librarians at the library building with your family.

#### What you're looking for:

- Kid friendly furnishings and shelving
- Readers advisory for tweens and middle grades
- Areas for unstructured play
- In-person programs for children of all ages
- Programs on weekends and afternoons for families with working parents
- Initiatives to foster year-round reading engagement

#### What you want:

- Resumption of children's programs
- Book groups for all grade levels
- STEAM resources and in-person programs
- Summer reading encouragement with book clubs
- Interactive displays
- Curated collections of interests

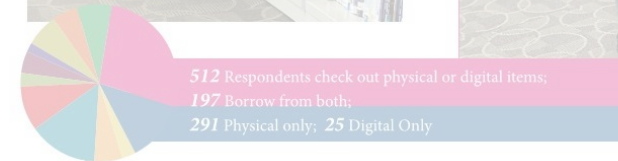
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- Areas for unstructured play
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our deep collections. Whether you're looking for a new book, or a few hours to browse books, we want to help you engage with our librarians at the library building with your family.

#### What you want:

- Resumption of children's programs
- Book groups for all grade levels
- STEAM resources and in-person programs
- Summer reading encouragement with book clubs
- Interactive displays
- Curated collections of interests



# 1C

## The Planning Context: Statistical Trends & Peer Comparisons

---

In comparing recent per capita performance measures to a trendline developed from the peer libraries' experience, one can extrapolate a predicted level of performance and compare it to the actual performance. Explanations for the variations can be sought in the nature of the service and or the nature of the spaces supporting those services.

# Statistical Trends & Peer Comparisons | Key Findings

A key strategy for understanding need and behaviors is to assess various statistical measures as indicators of community acceptance of and need for types of services. This can be done in two ways. One is to compare the various measures observed at Wilmette to the measures as observed at selected peer libraries. The second is to look at changes in the key measures across time.

This section looks at recent per capita performance measures at Wilmette to a trendline developed from the peer libraries' experience. From it, one can extrapolate a predicted level of performance and compare it to the actual performance. A percentage deviation from the trendline and a ranking of the performance seen at Wilmette compared to its population can both give an indication of whether and how closely Wilmette aligns with the peer prediction. Explanations for the variations can be sought in the nature of the service and or the nature of the spaces supporting those services.

It is important to acknowledge that the peer data varies over time as does Wilmette's. Each library is at a different point in adjusting its services and spaces to meeting the needs of its community. Direct alignment based solely on population based projections is risky and should never be the sole factor in determining strategic approaches to space development.

**Public libraries identified as peers** by the Library were included based on proximity, use by residents of the Wilmette district, and as libraries worth emulating. Other libraries are selected as recognized leaders in library services (aspirational peers). They are more likely outside

the normal experience of many District residents but are included based on staff assessment of the quality of services and spaces presented by these libraries and their relevance to the Wilmette experience.

<b>Peer Library</b>	<b>Service Population</b>
Glencoe Public Library (a)	8,723
Hinsdale Public Library (n)	16,816
Winnetka-Northfield Public Library District (a)	26,800
Deerfield Public Library (n)	18,225
Morton Grove Public Library (a)	23,270
Westmont Public Library (n)	24,685
<b>Wilmette Public Library District</b>	<b>27,087</b>
Highland Park Public Library (n)	29,763
Northbrook Public Library (r)	33,170
Barrington Area Library District (r)	44,157
Glenview Public Library (a)	44,692
Oak Park Public Library (r)	51,878
Niles-Maine District Library (a)	57,284
Skokie Public Library (r)	64,784
Warren-Newport Public Library District (n)	66,690
Gail Borden Public Library District (r)	144,597

*Key to peers: a=adjacent, n=nearby, r=recognized leader.*

**Of these libraries, the Wilmette service population is the 10th largest among the group.** While it is not a straight-line relationship between most measures and population, in general, the larger the population served, the more collection items, seats, computers, etc. will be needed by the library to meet the needs of its community.

# Peer Comparison

**Registered Borrowers: Wilmette trails the peer group prediction by 13%.**

Registered Borrowers are 54% of the service population. Wilmette ranks 8<sup>th</sup> out of 16 libraries. The peer group experience suggests borrowers would tally 62% of the service population.

- Space characteristics influencing this may be the perceived lack of seating, nature of space at the lower level, and the concentration of space at the east end of the District.

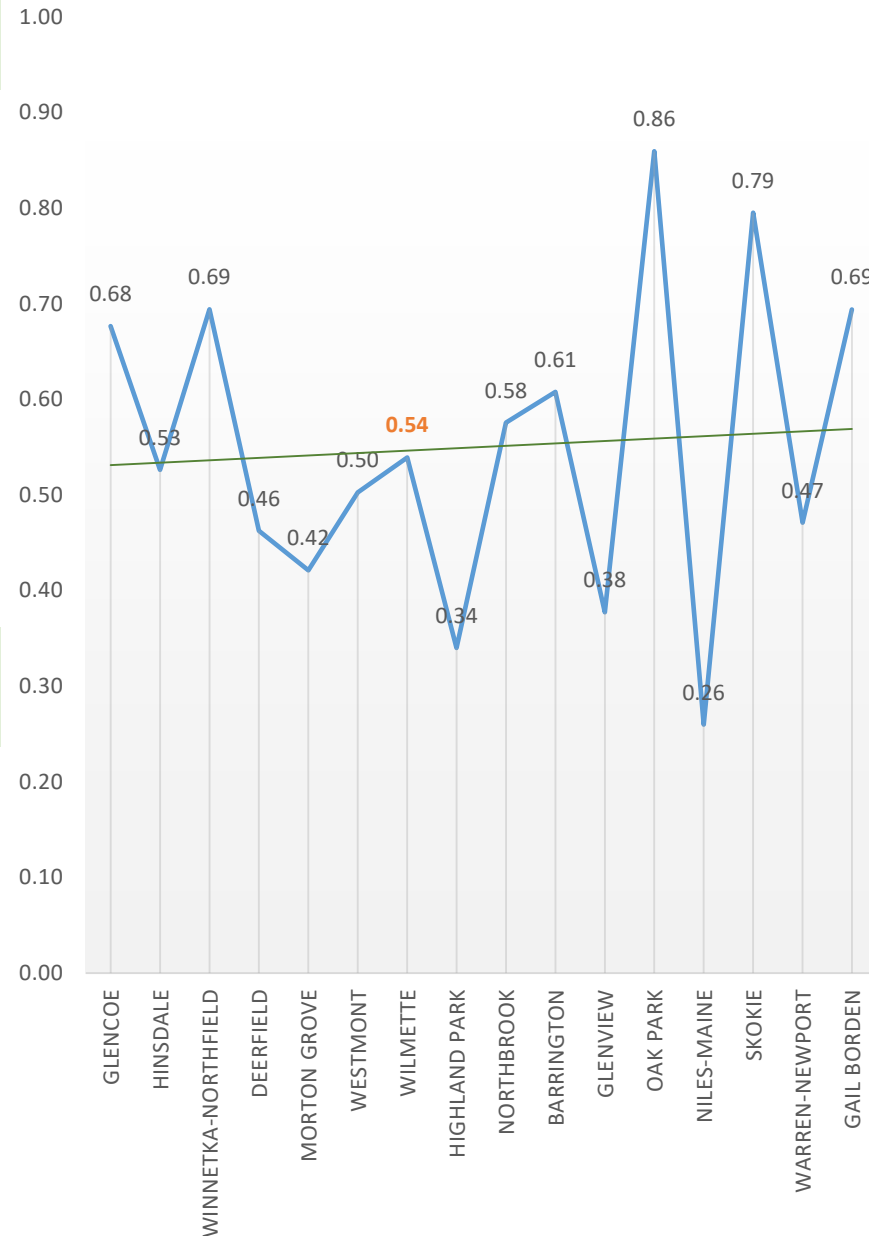
**Visits per capita: Wilmette exceeds the peer group prediction by 86%.**

Visits per capita are 3.78 visits per year. Wilmette ranks 4<sup>th</sup> out of 16 libraries. The peer group experience suggest Wilmette would see 2.04 visits per year per person.

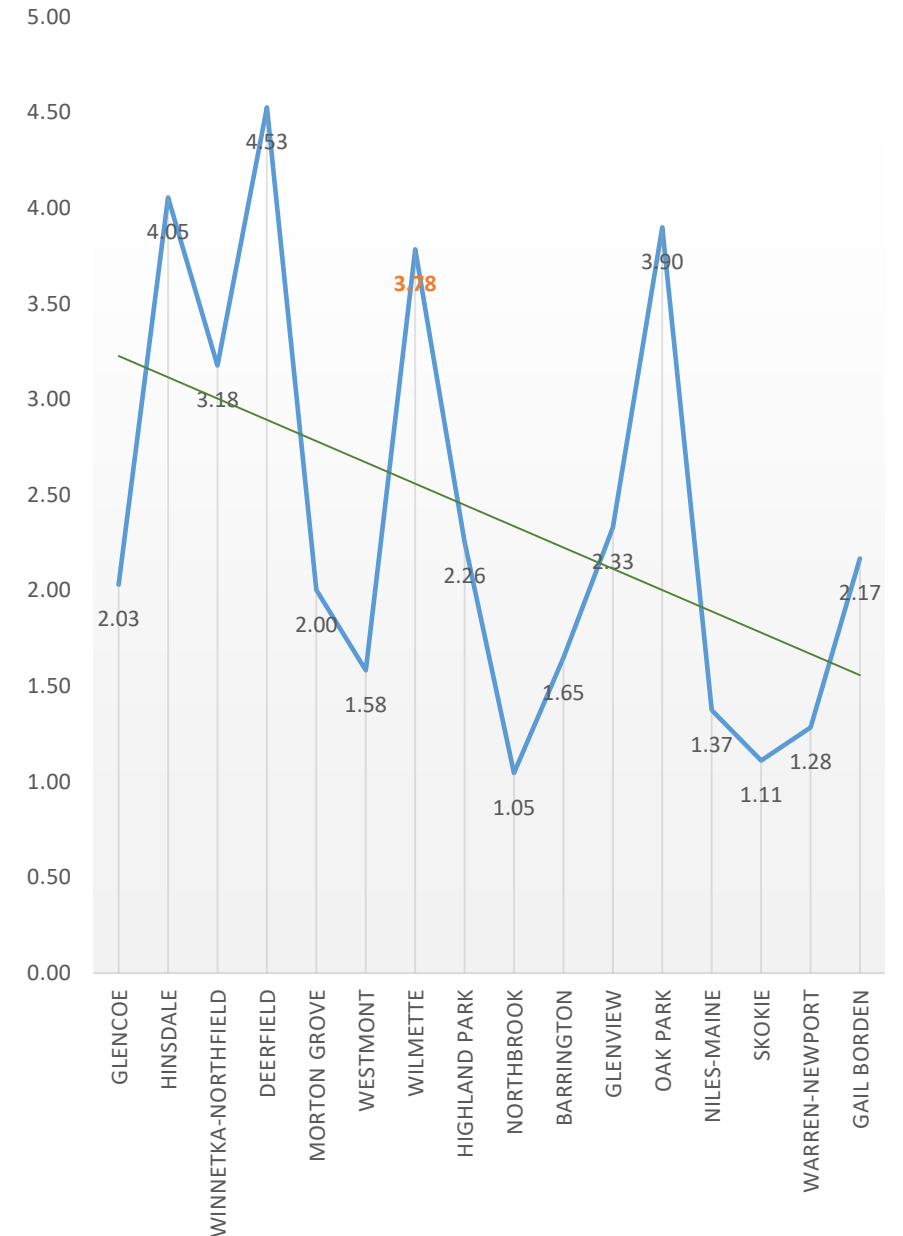
- This is an indicator of the value placed on library service by residents and the quality of service, programming and resources offered by the Library.

*Wilmette ranks 10<sup>th</sup> in service population among the selected peer libraries.*

REGISTERED BORROWERS PER CAPITA



VISITS PER CAPITA



*Data is from the most recent available year (2021) of the IMLS Public Library Survey.*  
 Data is from the most recent available year (2021) of the IMLS Public Library Survey.  
 ENGBERG ANDERSON • ARCHITECTURE • INTERIOR DESIGN • PLANNING | PAGE 27

# Peer Comparison

**Reference Transactions: Wilmette exceeds the peer group prediction by 158%.**

Reference Transactions per capita are 1.65 per year. Wilmette ranks 1<sup>st</sup> out of 16 libraries. The peer group experience suggest this would be 0.64 transactions per year.

**Book Volumes owned per capita: Wilmette exceeds the prediction by 136%.**

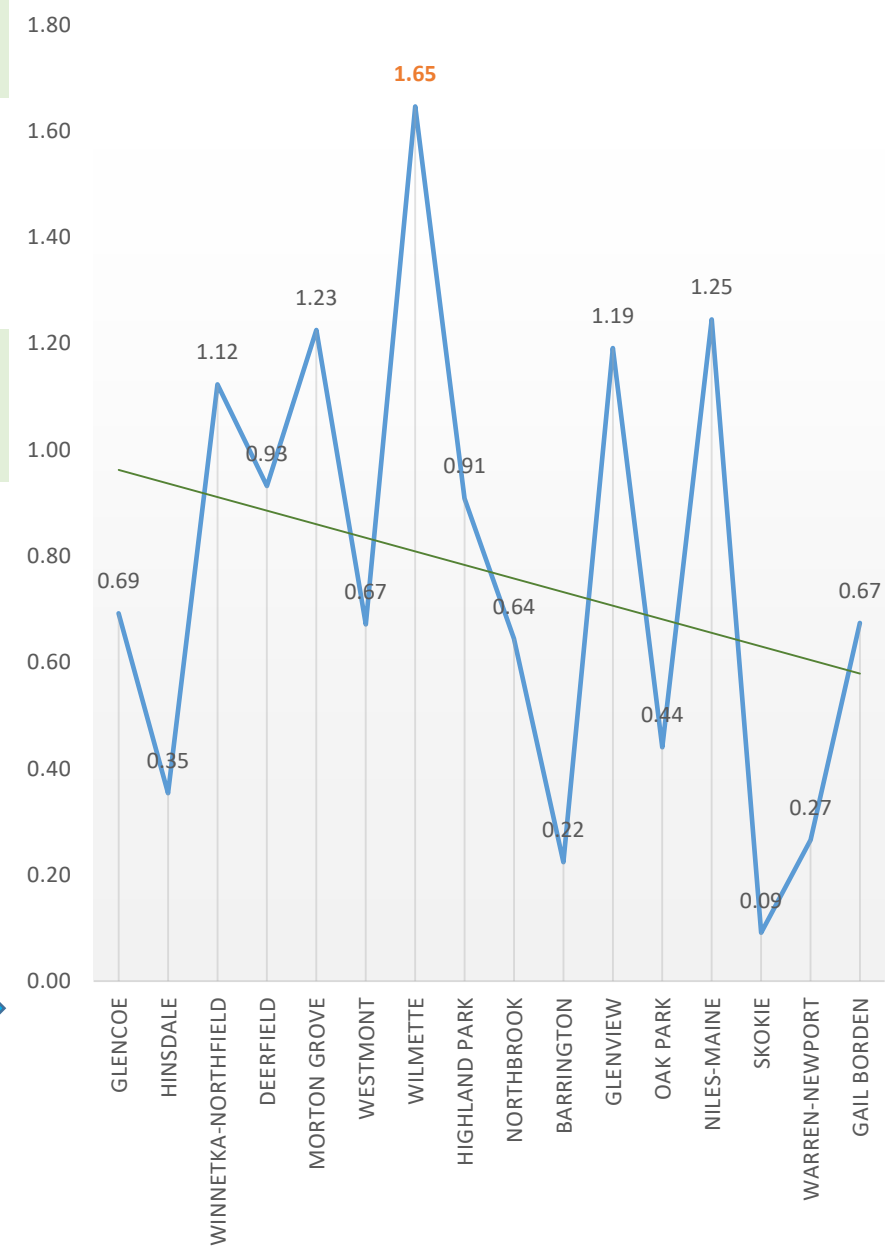
Book Volumes owned per capita: are 6.96 physical (print) volumes. Wilmette ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> out of 16 libraries. The peer group experience suggest this would be 2.96 volumes owned per year per person.

➤ This indicates that residents prize physical print books are heavy users compared to other peer libraries.

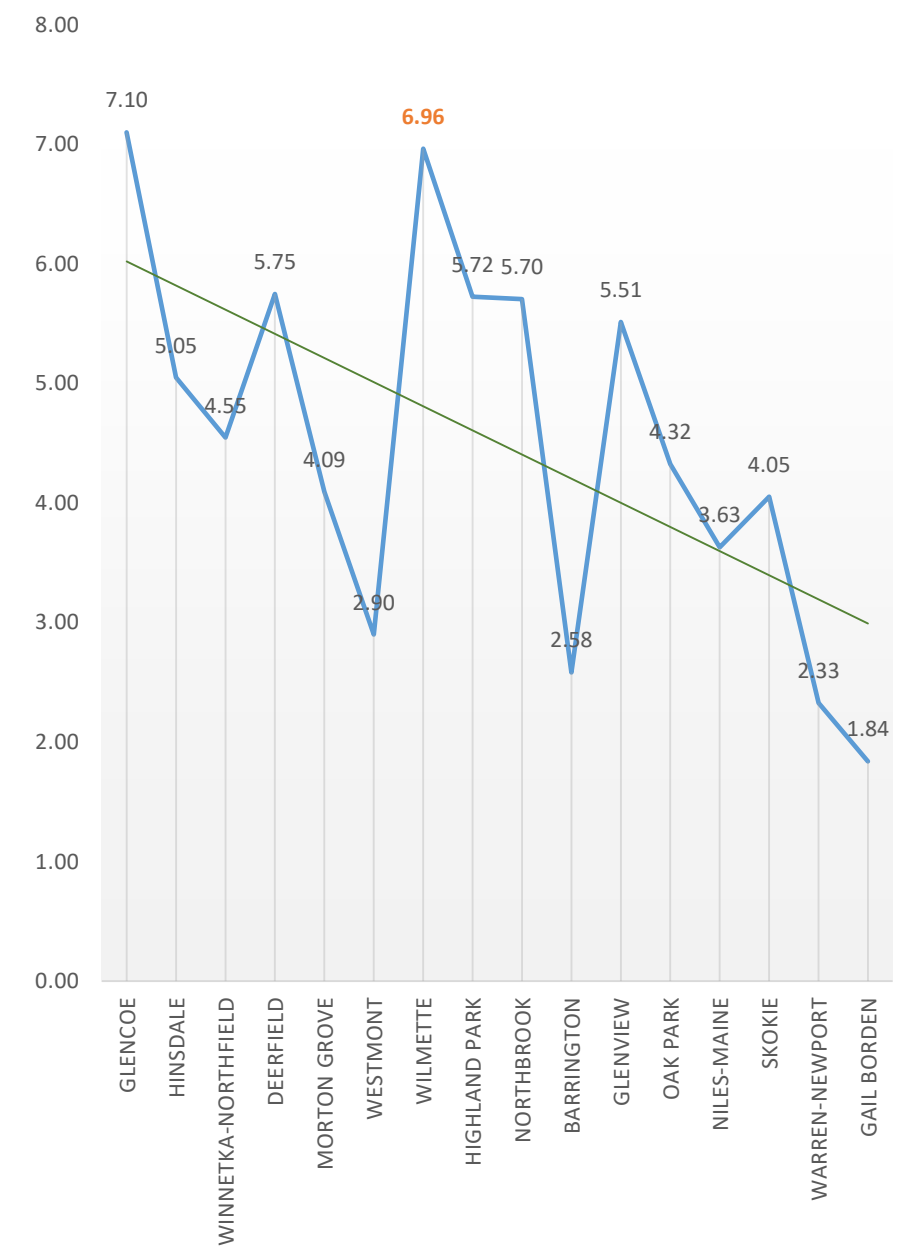
**Too much space for “stuff”?**

*Wilmette ranks 10<sup>th</sup> in service population among the selected peer libraries..*

REFERENCE TRANSACTIONS PER CAPITA



BKVOL/ CAPITA



*Data is from the most recent available year (2021) of the IMLS Public Library Survey.*

# Peer Comparison

**Physical Audio Items owned per capita: Wilmette exceeds the prediction by 325%.**

Physical Audio Items owned per capita are 1.08 physical items. Wilmette ranks 1<sup>st</sup> out of 16 libraries. The peer group experience suggest this would be 0.25 items owned per year per person.

**Physical Video Items owned per capita: Wilmette exceeds the prediction by 76%.**

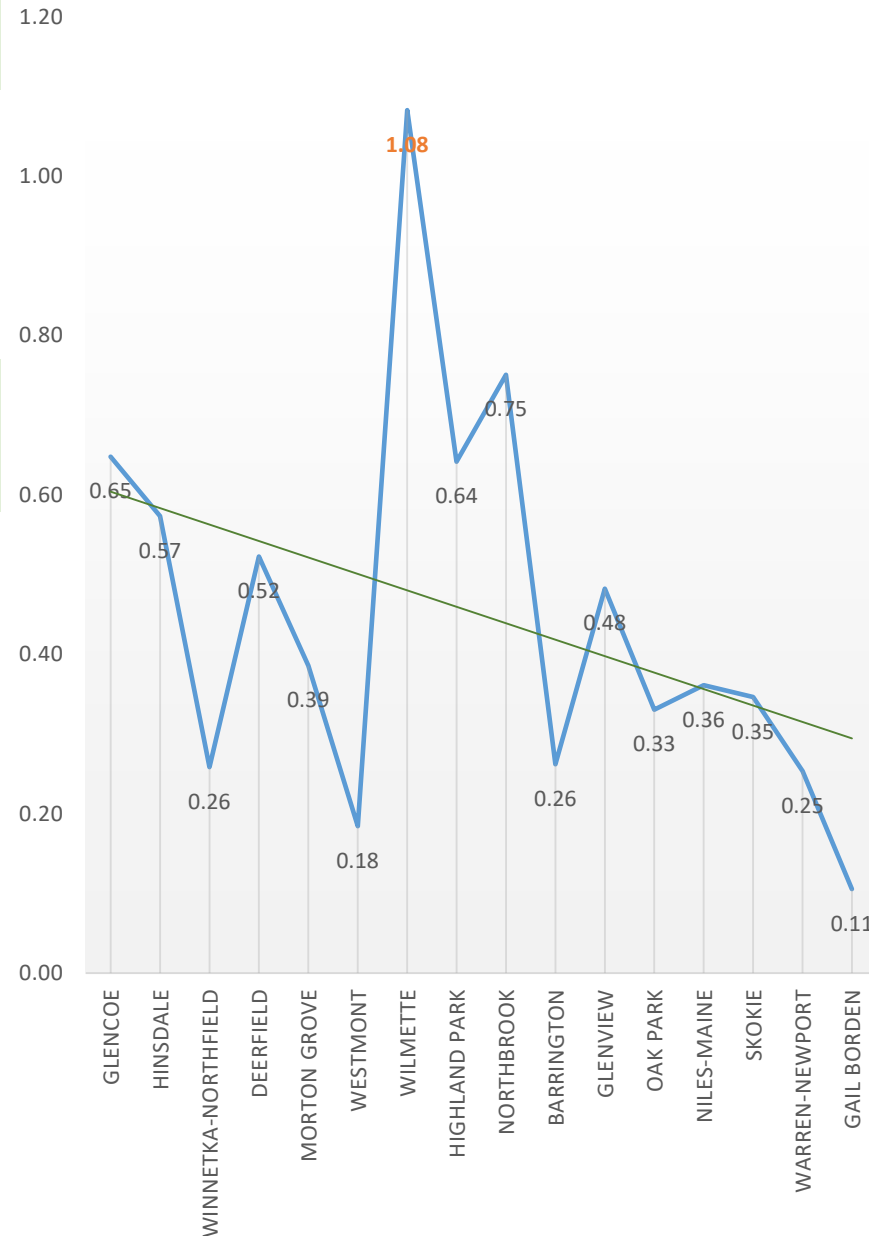
Physical Video Items owned per capita are 0.77 physical items.

Wilmette ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 16 libraries.

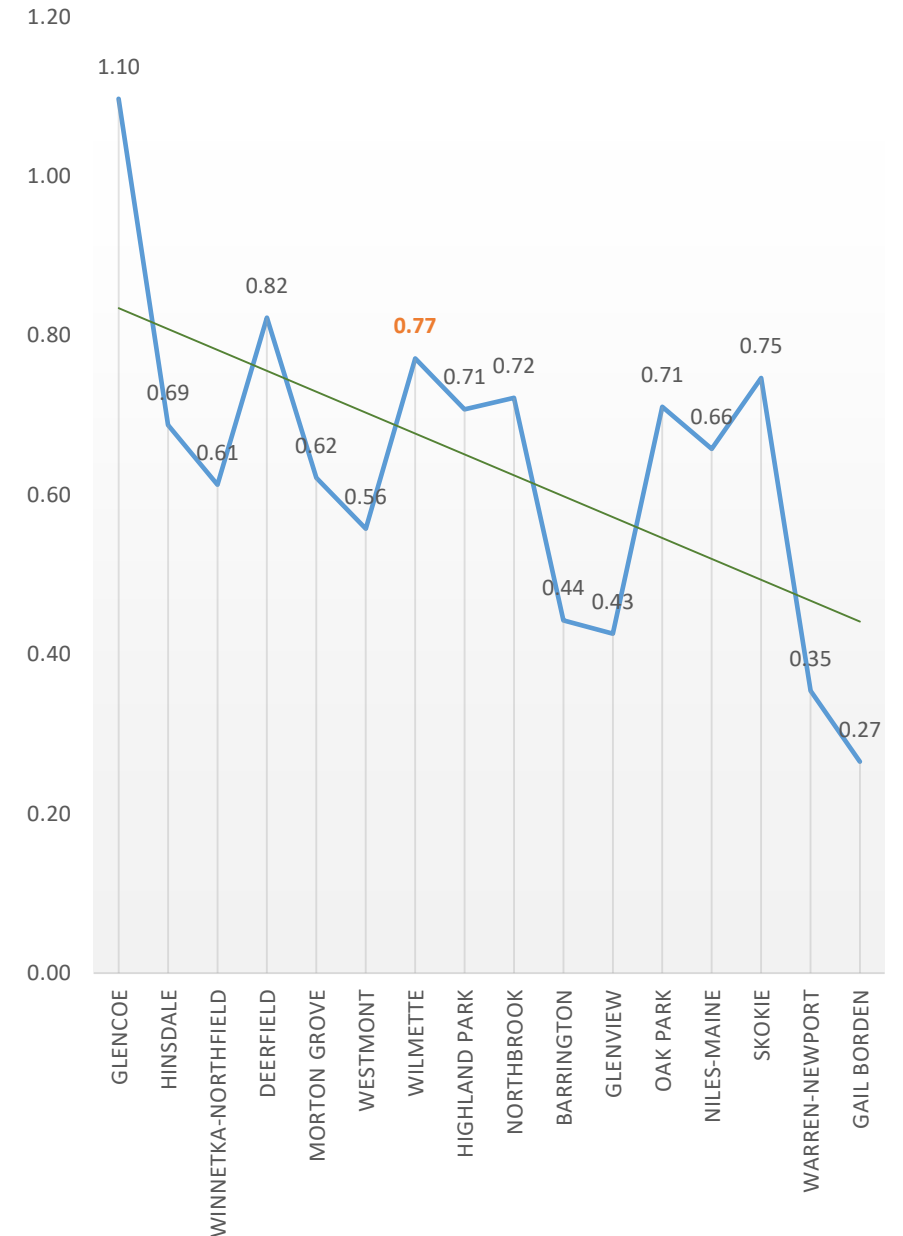
The peer group experience suggest this would be 0.44 items owned per year per person.

➤ Most planners agree that there is a strong underlying move toward streaming audio and that most physical audio is or will shortly be a legacy media. It is expected that video will follow a similar but delay transition to downloadable material.

AUDIOPH/ CAPITA



VIDEOPH/ CAPITA



Data is from the most recent available year (2021) of the IMLS Public Library Survey.

Too much space for “stuff”?

# Peer Comparison

**Physical Circulation per capita:  
Wilmette exceeds the peer group  
prediction by 179%.**

Physical Circulation per capita is 20.57 items per person per year. Wilmette ranks 1<sup>st</sup> out of 16 libraries.

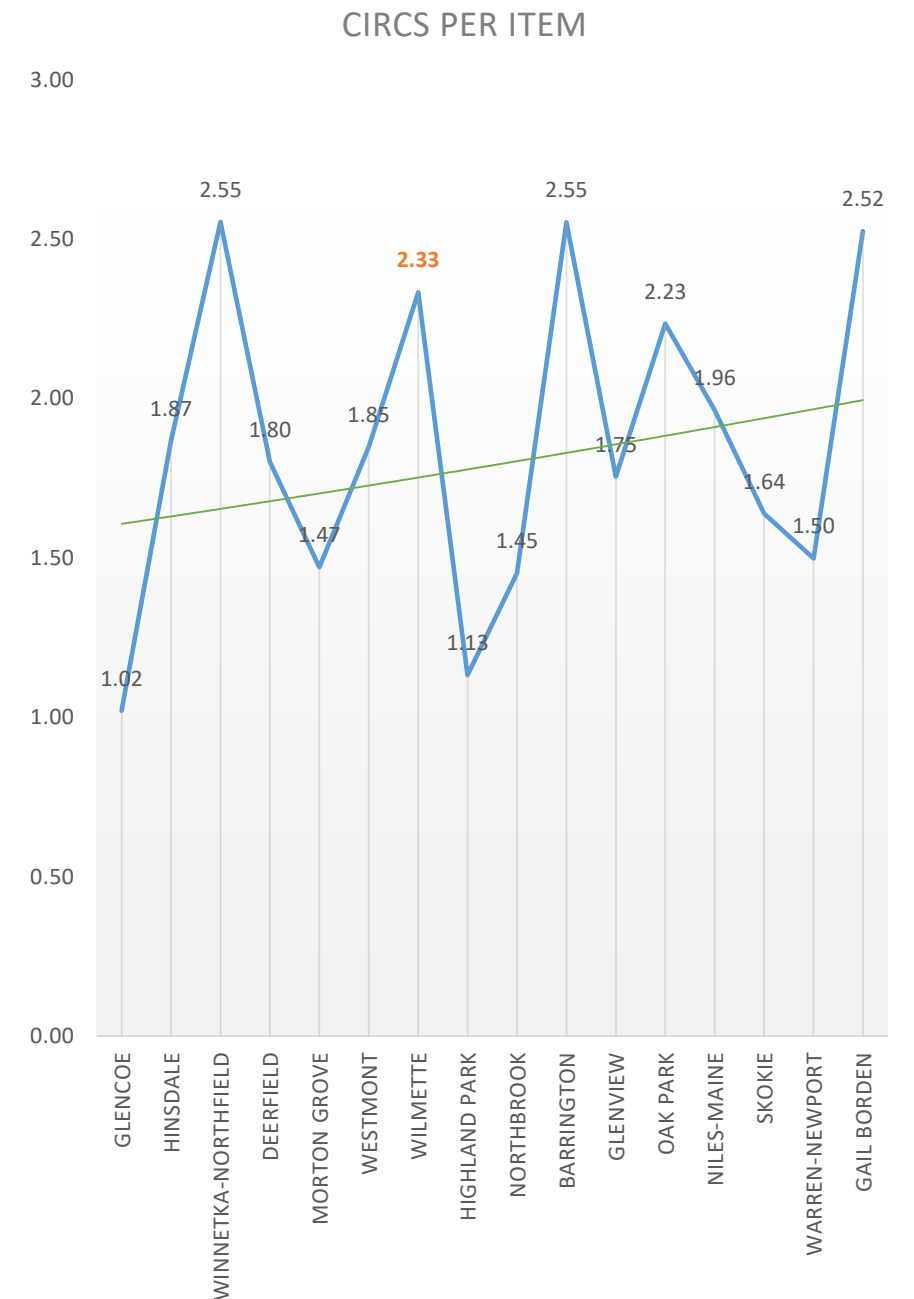
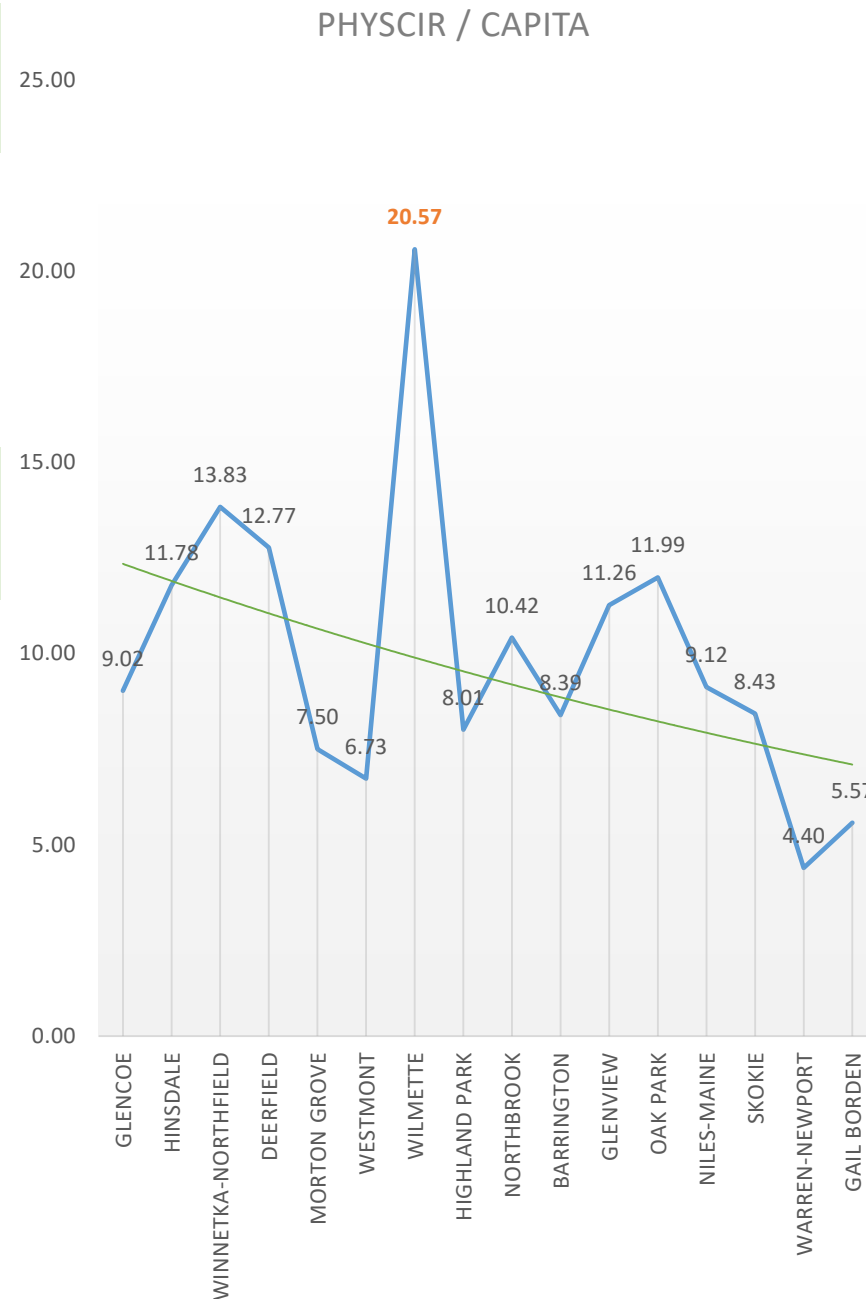
The peer group experience suggest this would be 7.37 circulations per person per year.

**Physical Circulation per item:  
Wilmette exceeds the peer group  
prediction by 15%.**

Physical Circulation per item: averages 2.33 circulations per item per year. Wilmette ranks 4<sup>th</sup> out of 16 libraries. The peer group experience suggest this would be 2.02 circulations per item per year.

➤ This indicates that residents prize physical print books are heavy users compared to other peer libraries. The collection is well curated and relevant.

*Wilmette ranks 10<sup>th</sup> in service population among the selected peer libraries.*



Data is from the most recent available year (2021) of the IMLS Public Library Survey.



# Peer Comparison

**Loans from Other Libraries: Wilmette exceeds the prediction by 103%.**

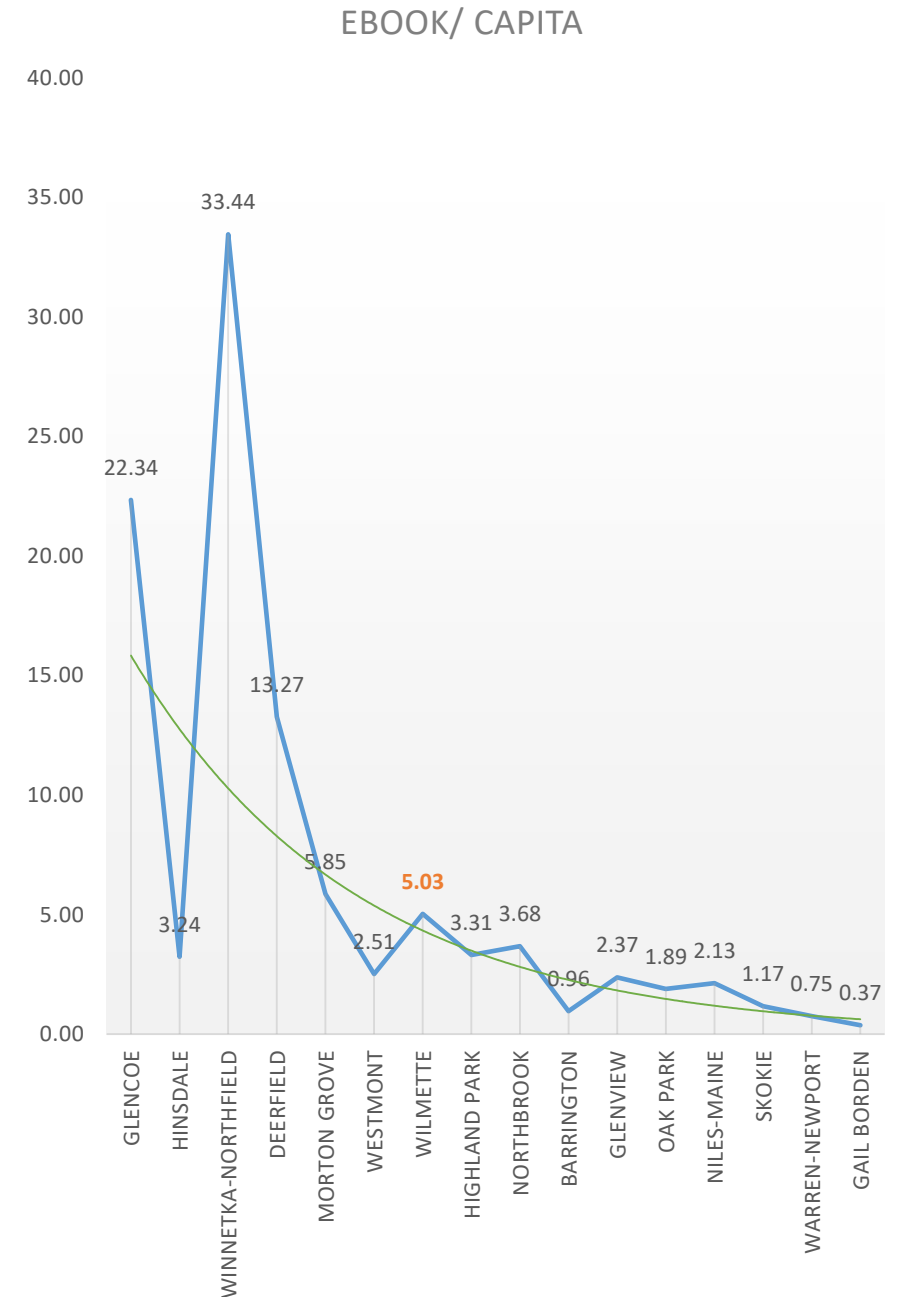
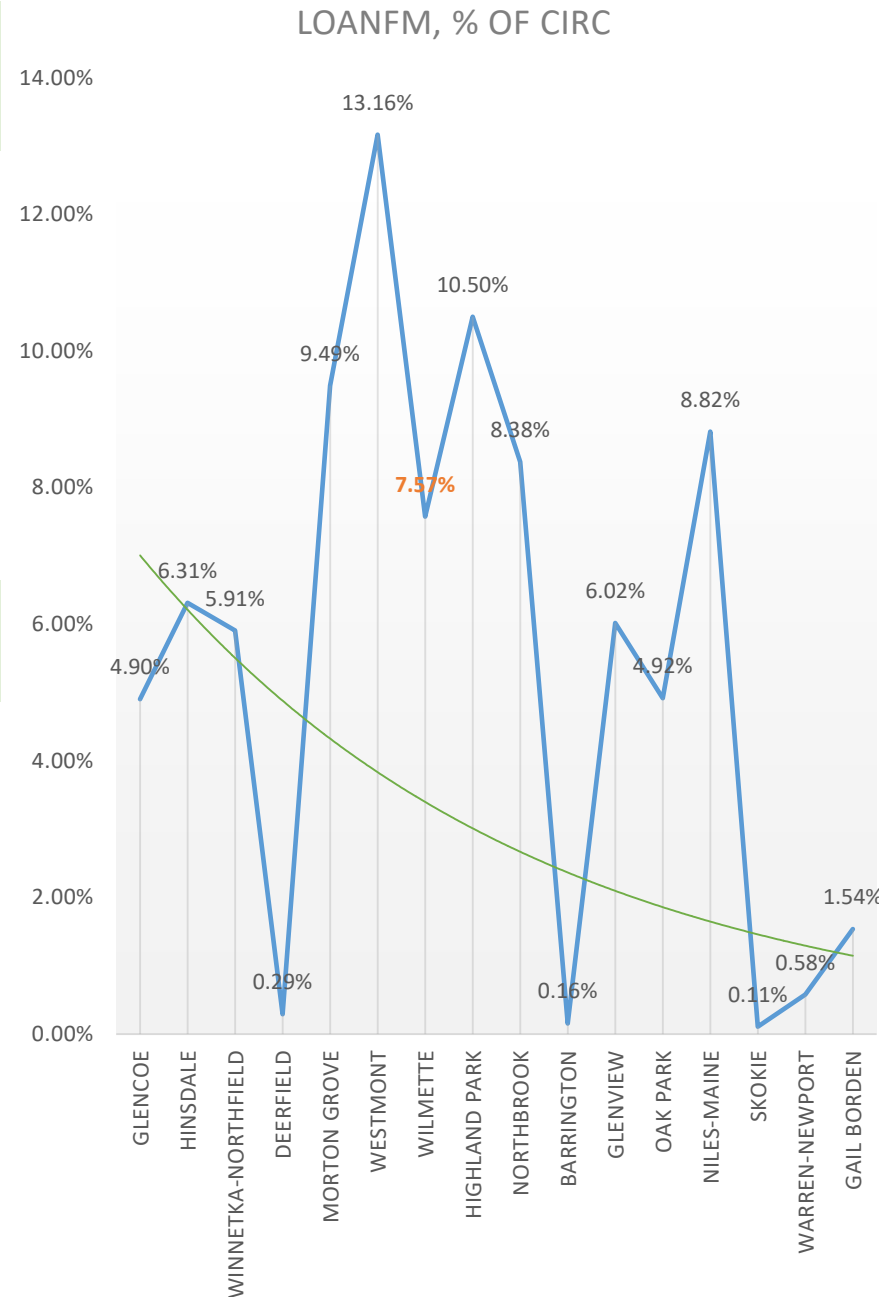
Loans from Other Libraries constitutes 7.57 % of the physical circulation. Wilmette ranks 6<sup>th</sup> out of 16 libraries. The peer group experience suggest this would be 3.73% of the circulations per year be from items loaned from other libraries. This physical circulation is in the context of robust digital resources.

**Ebooks per capita: Wilmette exceeds the prediction by 232%.**

Ebooks per capita are 5.03 items. Wilmette ranks 5<sup>th</sup> out of 16 libraries. The peer group experience suggest this would be 1.51 items per capita.

- Even with large physical holdings, there is a need to borrow from other libraries to meet local demand.
- The ebook/capita data suggests that the heavy use of physical print is not a result of a lack of digital alternatives.

*Wilmette ranks 10<sup>th</sup> in service population among the selected peer libraries.*



*Data is from the most recent available year (2021) of the IMLS Public Library Survey.*

# Peer Comparison

**The GP Terminals: Wilmette exceeds the prediction by 116%.**

The GP Terminals (28) serve, on average, 967 users per terminal per year. Wilmette ranks 4<sup>th</sup> out of 16 libraries. The peer group experience suggest this would be 447 users per terminal.

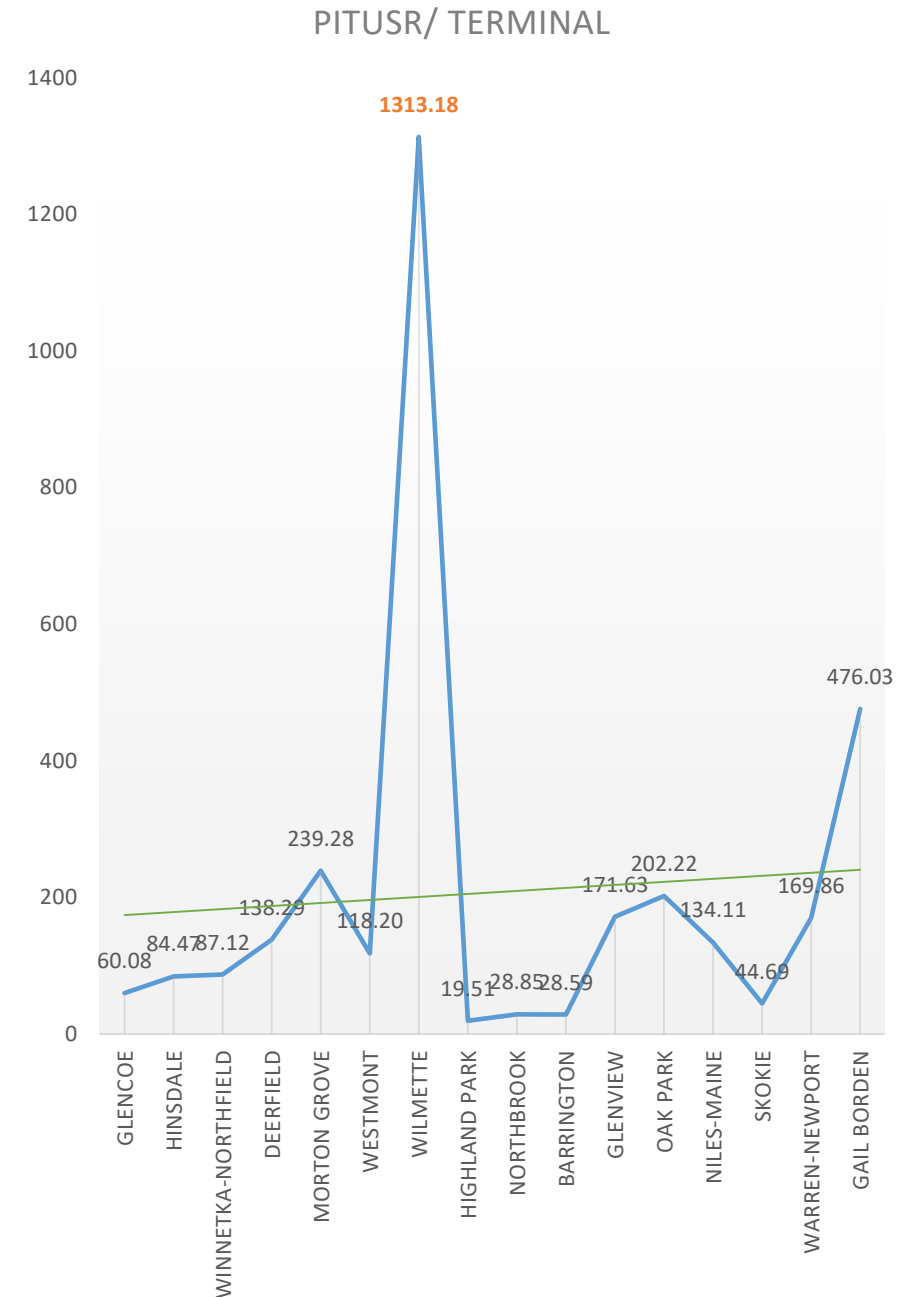
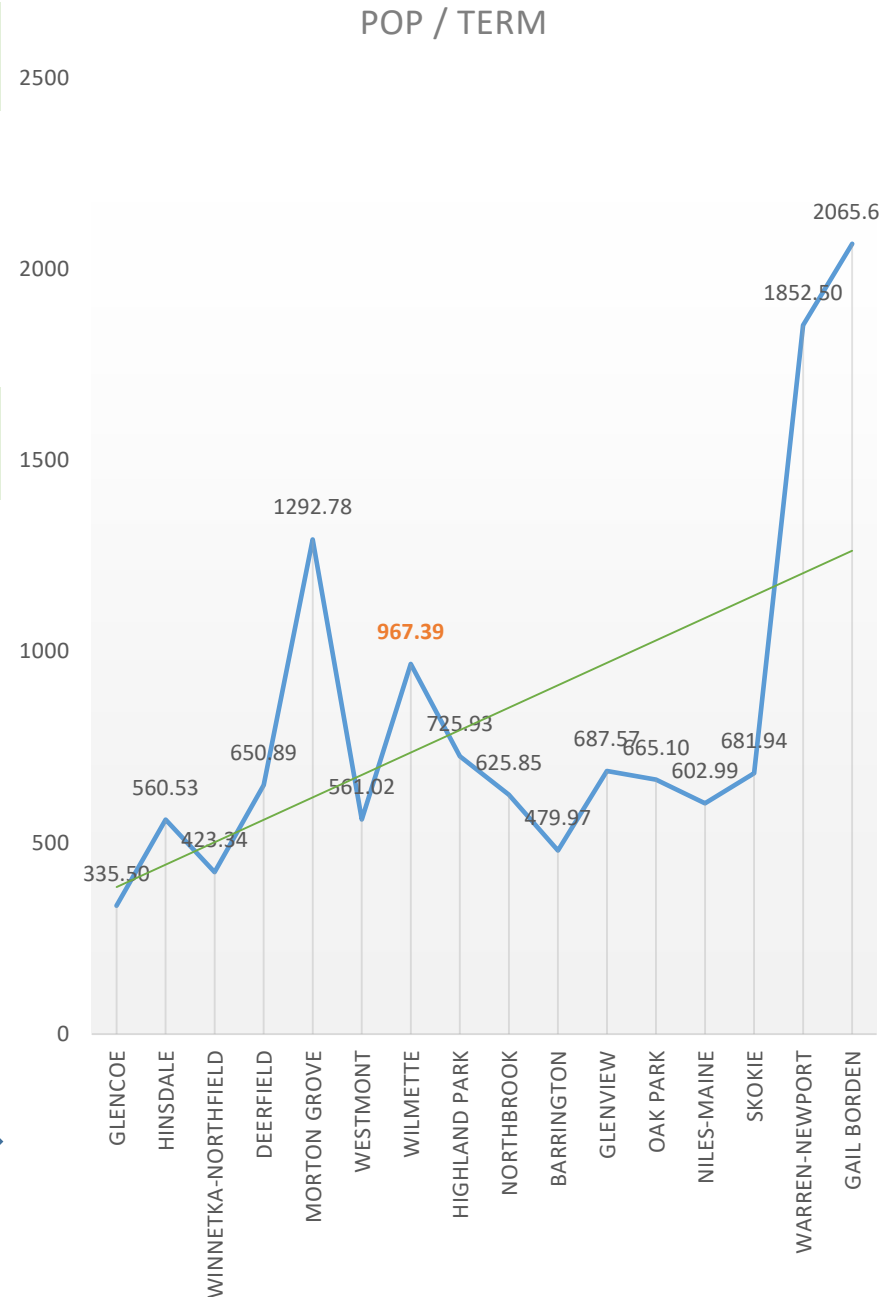
**Terminal Use Sessions: Wilmette exceeds the prediction by 507%.**

Terminal Use Sessions is 1313 sessions per terminal annually. Wilmette ranks 1<sup>st</sup> out of 16 libraries in the intensity of use per terminal. The peer group experience suggest this would be 216 uses per terminal.

➤ The per capita terminal count suggests that patrons may have longer waits at Wilmette than at peer library facilities. The use sessions per terminal may be a function of both need and the limited number of terminals.

**Are there enough terminals?**

*Wilmette ranks 10<sup>th</sup> in service population among the selected peer libraries.*



*Data is from the most recent available year (2021) of the IMLS Public Library Survey.*

# Peer Comparison

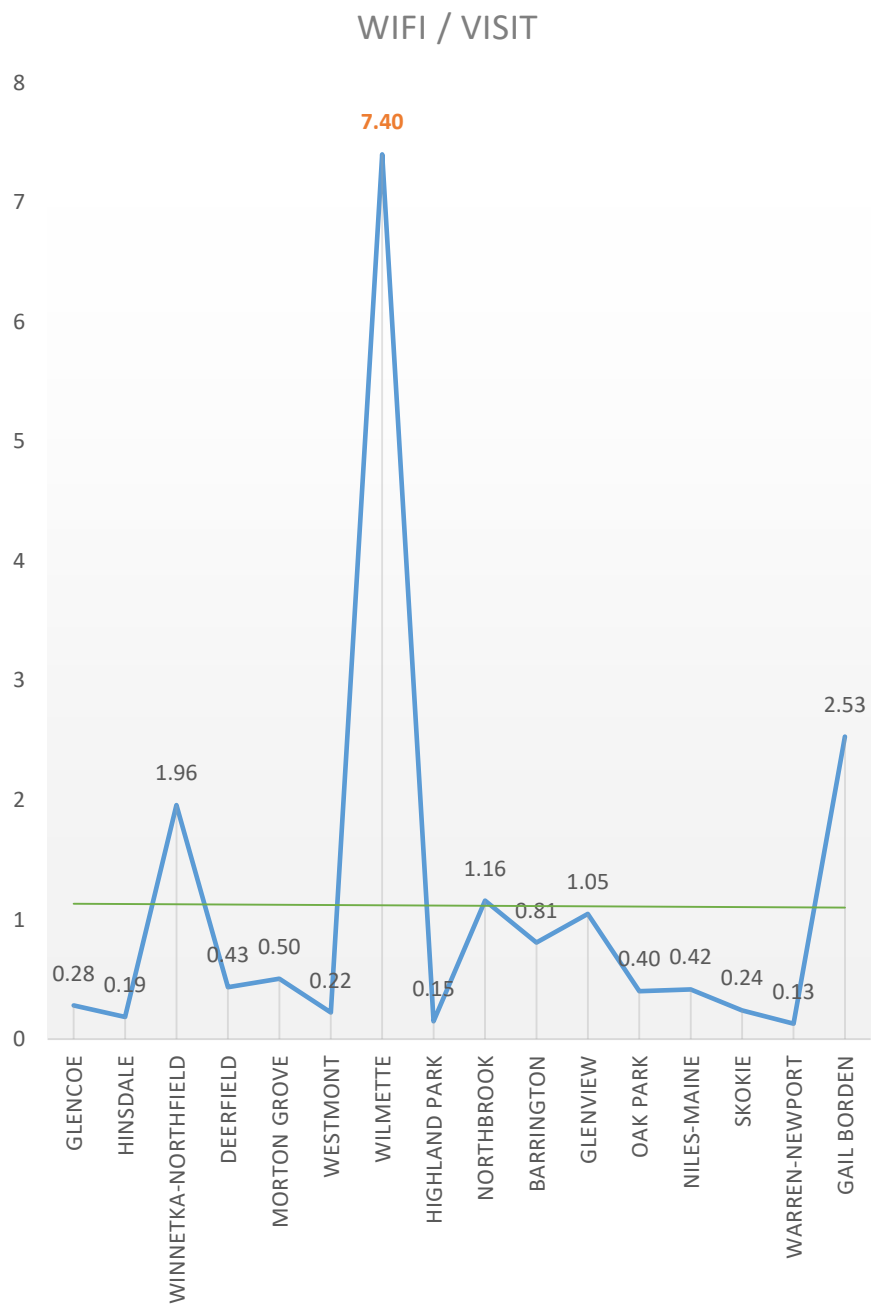
**WI-FI Sessions: Wilmette exceeds the prediction by 329%.**

WI-FI Sessions per year are 758,136 sessions or 7.40 sessions per visitor in a year. Wilmette ranks 1<sup>st</sup> out of 16 libraries in the intensity of WI-FI use. The peer group experience suggest this would be 1.72 sessions per visitor.

- In addition to heavy terminal use, the patrons at Wilmette are very heavy users of library provided internet access. This suggests that there is a need for the appropriate environments and furnishings to support use of patron provided devices.

*Wilmette ranks 10<sup>th</sup> in service population among the selected peer libraries.*

**Is here enough proper seating for these patrons?**



*Data is from the most recent available year (2021) of the IMLS Public Library Survey.*

1d

# The Planning Context: Patron Mapping Across the Building

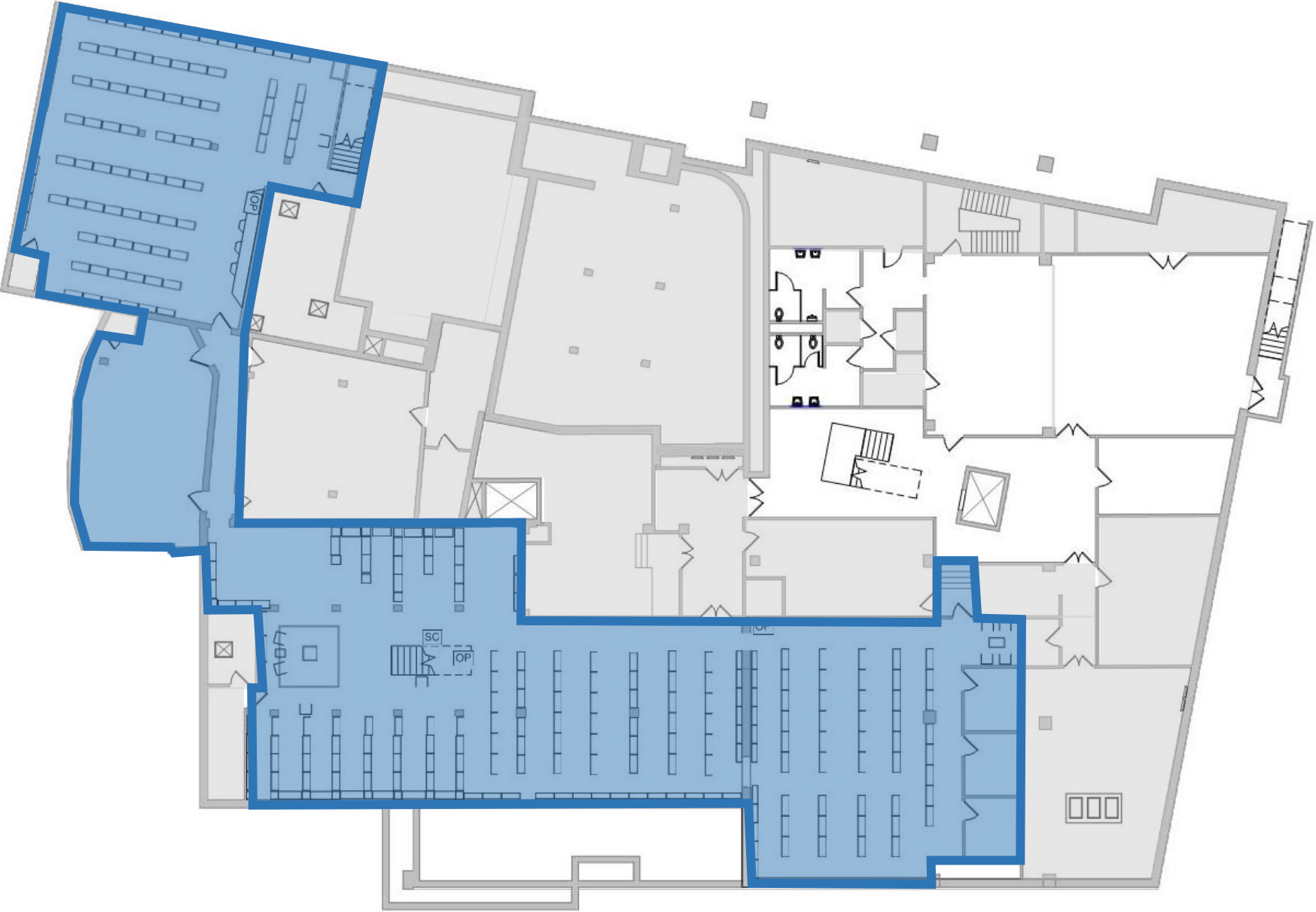
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Observed patron behaviors are indicators of effective environments and compelling services.

# Lower-Level – No One Comes Here

**NOTES**

- Occasional browsers.
- Occasional use of countertop.



# First Floor - People Places

## NOTES

There are a number of frequently used spaces. The most consistently used are the 4-pace table in the Fiction area, and select spaces near windows and the fireplace. The computers were usually occupied.



# Second Floor – People Places

## NOTES

There are a number of frequently used spaces. The most consistently used are the Project Rooms, a corner of the Periodicals Room, a corner of the Mezzanine, and the unstructured learning area adjacent to the Storytime Room.



# 1e

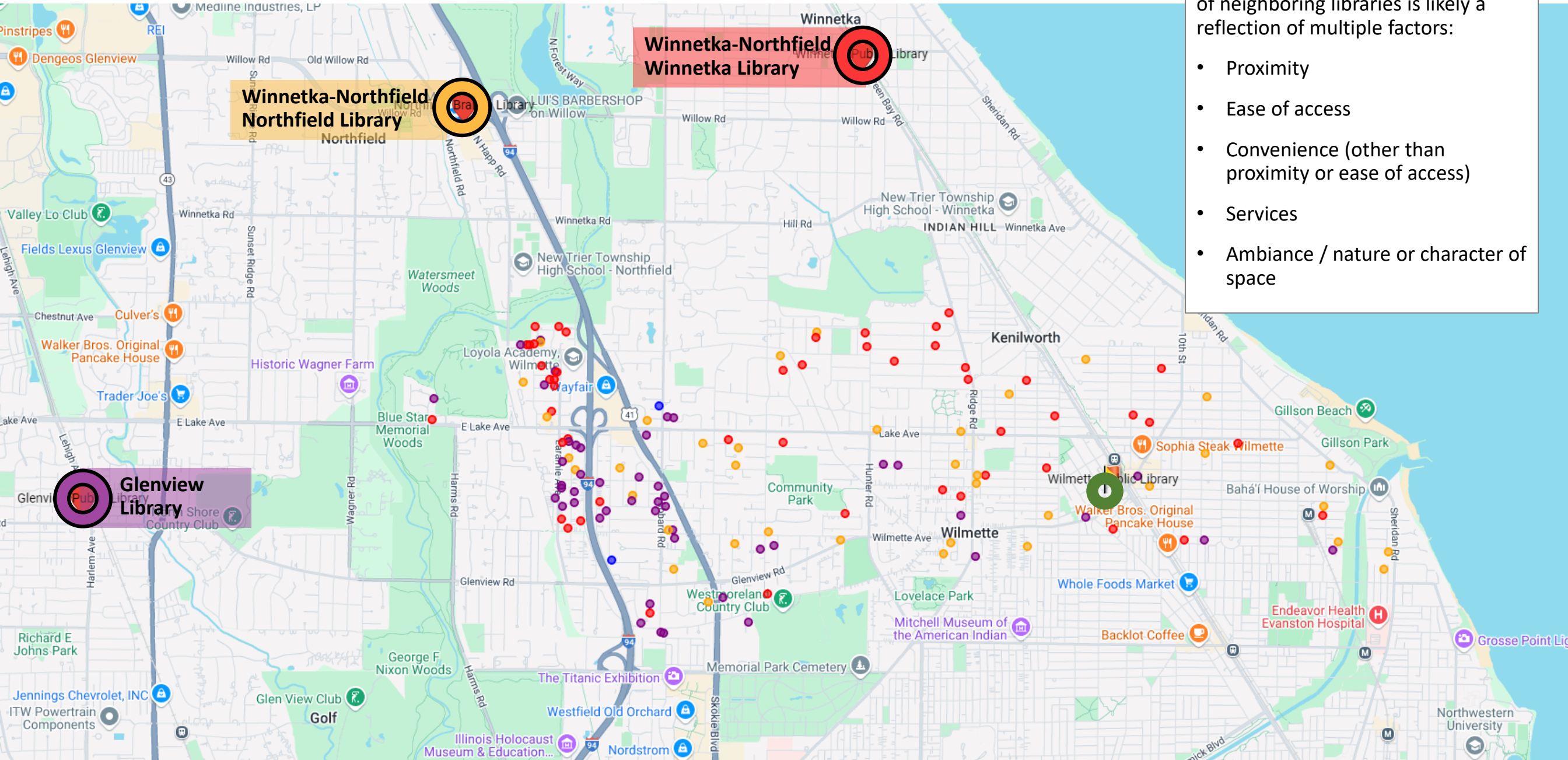
## The Planning Context: Resident Use of Neighboring Libraries

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Use levels mapped across the District show divergent use levels. Proximity of a physical library presence is suspected as a key element in this pattern.



# Resident Use of Neighboring Libraries



Library data related to resident use of neighboring libraries is likely a reflection of multiple factors:

- Proximity
- Ease of access
- Convenience (other than proximity or ease of access)
- Services
- Ambiance / nature or character of space

<https://reports.ccslib.org/WILMETTE:DidNotUseWilmette.html>

# 2a Space Needs

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Amounts, Type, & Quality of Space in the Context of the Library's Mission, Vision, & Values

# Wilmette Needs – Supporting Traditional & Emerging Service Trends

➤ Definition of space need and the exploration of space options are overlapped in planning in existing buildings. Typical space typologies include:



Collections



Reader Seats



Technology Seats



Activity Rooms

Is there enough proper space for these patrons?

Is there enough proper space for staff?



Staff Spaces



Special Purpose Space



Multi-Purpose Rooms

Multi-Purpose Rooms

# Emerging Service Trends: Collection Spaces

Collection areas are not browser-friendly.

## Address the current issues:

- Tall stacks
- Narrow aisles
- Crowded shelves
- Low light levels
- Convoluted paths
- Chopped up collections
- Dowdy finishes
- Lack of people, activity in collection areas



## Emerging Service Trends: Collection Spaces: Circulation Efficiency



**Quality of Merchandising** – this is the strongest correlation to increased circulation. Just putting titles face out immediately increases circulation. Using well-merchandised displays (following symmetric balance, the rule of 3 and other merchandising techniques) helps even more.

**Pathway Placement** – Circulation is strongest on active pathways. Ensuring that active pathways touch more of the library is an excellent means to boost circulation.

**Zone Placement** – For pathways to be effective, they must connect active and useful zones (destinations) for patrons.

**Collections do not have a coherent relationship.**

# Emerging Service Trends: Collection Spaces: Circulation Efficiency & Pathways

Building geometry at Wilmette fights this goal.

## Define Pathways

Open up the arrival sequence

Better decompression zone

Space things out: Less is more

Less clutter

Clear line of sight to destinations:

- Computer Room
- Bookstore
- Circulation Desk
- Main Stair



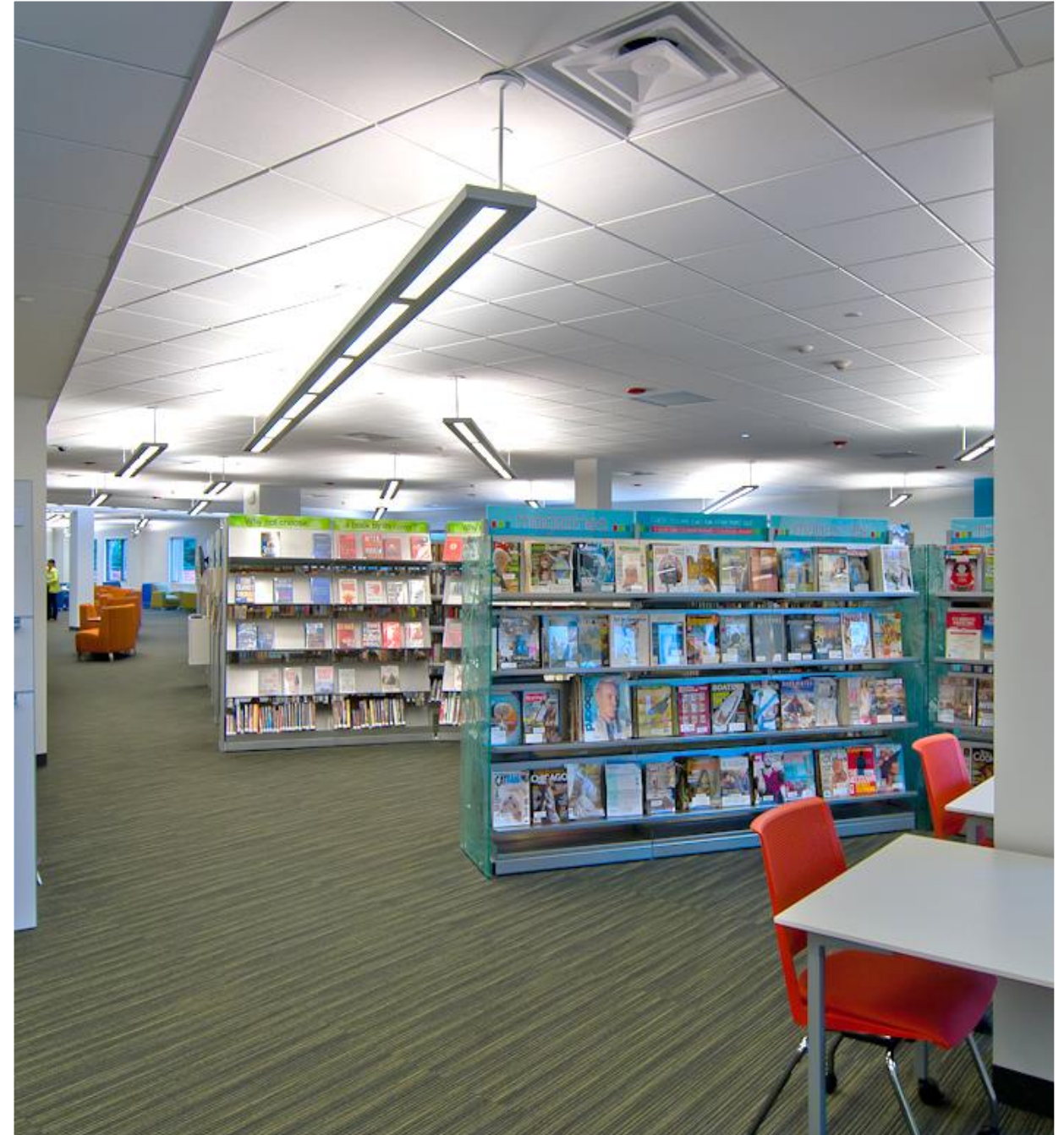
# Emerging Service Trends: Collection Spaces: Circulation Efficiency & Destinations



**Add people spaces to Lower Level.**

**Create Destinations: Maker Space, Local History, Seats.**

**Link destinations with unifying pathways**



# Emerging Service Trends: Reader Seating

Add people spaces to Lower Level.

Create more, different seating environments, each with multiple seating options.

Flexible, use-appropriate, technology-friendly.

Computer Zone

Teen Zone

Kids Zones

Quiet Zones





# Emerging Service Trends: Territoriality

Libraries have a need for 3 types of interpersonal distance.

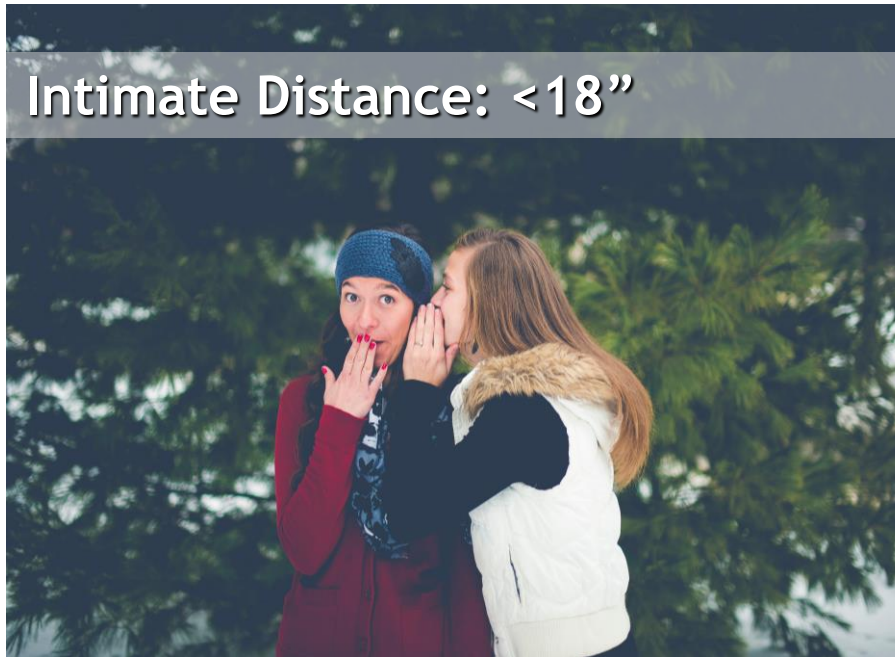
Acknowledge differences:

- Territorial requirements in public buildings
- Between quiet and noisy activities.
- Acknowledge impact of adjacent uses.
- Neuro-variances in patron needs.

Provide spaces of adequate size and separation.

**Space seating to fit use and behavioral needs.**

Designing for the Future:  
The Post-Pandemic Library  
Vinjamuri & Huberty



# Emerging Service Trends: Territoriality



Increase separation by use of zones, distance, barriers.

Blending workspace, territorial buffers, and health related separation with distance and or barriers.



# Emerging Service Trends: Technology Seats

Increase separation by use of zones, distance, barriers.

Provide separate zones for quiet and noisy computing.

Technology support is often noisy: a distraction to some.

- Technology seats
  - help bridge the digital divide;
  - support multiple platforms;
  - permit extended use;
  - accommodate age specific computing environments; and
  - maintain realistic wait times for the design population.
- They also must account for differences in use and use-style:
  - Introvert/extrovert
  - Group/individual
  - Focused/recreational



# Emerging Service Trends: Activity Spaces

Provide active learning space for everyone.

Define spaces that support:

- Social, hands-on, active, unstructured or self-structured learning.
- Provide acoustic separation where needed.
- Encourage social literacy.
- Promote exploration, learning by observing, and learning by doing.
- Caregiver and peer interactions.



# Emerging Service Trends: Activity Spaces

Is there space for a wide range of activities?

Does infrastructure support activities?



Learning by doing, engagement based on common interests



# Emerging Service Trends: Activity Spaces

Engagement at multiple levels: direct users, younger kids modeling older kids, caregivers/parents

Is there space for kids and caregivers?

Type	Notes
<b>Baby Garden</b>	
<b>Kiosk (3 kids)</b>	P, EE
<b>Lego Table (2 kids)</b>	P, EE
<b>Real Play (2 kids)</b>	P, EE
<b>Magnet Wall (3 kids)</b>	P, E
<b>Digital (2 kids)</b>	P, E, M
<b>Puppet Theater</b>	P, E, M
<b>Dress Up Costumes</b>	P, E, M
<b>Light Bright (3 kids)</b>	P, E, M
<b>Digital (2 kids)</b>	P, E, M
<b>Indoor Playground (10)</b>	P, E, M
<b>Imagination Playground</b>	P, E, M
<b>Game Room M (3 kids)</b>	P, E
<b>Media Lab M (3 kids)</b>	UE, M
<b>3d Games (1 kids +)</b>	UE, M
<b>Storage</b>	
<b>Washing Machine</b>	

P Preschool  
 EE Early Elementary  
 E Elementary  
 M Middle  
 UE Upper Elementary



## Emerging Service Trends: Low Sensory Spaces

**Proved space to get or be calm.**

In a building as stimulating as a library, there can be an overwhelming amount of sensory input to process. Calming spaces can support neuro-divergent engagement of space, social settings, and learning styles. These should be convenient, easy to use, and not stigmatizing.



# Emerging Service Trends: Staff Spaces

## Define spaces for effective work.

Reflect contemporary work flow, support healthy work space, think post-pandemic.

### Public Service Points

- Visible, inviting, engaging, not threatening or intimidating. Right-sized. Focused on public interaction – not off-desk work.

### Workrooms

- Close to areas served.
- Near Public Service Points.
- Not in prime locations.
- Near each other if possible.





# Emerging Service Trends: Staff Spaces

## Adult Services

### Service Desk 1 (upstairs):

- one substantial station/desk - 2 seats/computers (if feasible), (room for patron to sit adjacent)
- one kiosk or flexible station (could be in Recent Arrivals (if shared with Circ is way we wish to go), or Marketplace)

### Service Desk 2 (downstairs):

- one substantial station/desk - 2 seats/computers (if feasible)

Manager's Office: single workstation, 2 guest chairs

### Department Office:

- Assistant Manager space (larger allocation than other FT staff)
- 4 dedicated FT stations (one user assigned)
- 2 flexible PT stations (one regular PT staff each combined with general PT need) - one could double as "collection station" if not resources for separate (see next)
- counter space for collection work or program prep (not as island)
- space for carts - both at workstations (when in use) and small area for shared
- degree of cabinetry/storage
- Shared use of collaborative conference room: conference table(s) with 6-10 chairs

## Circulation/ILL/Shelving

Primary Service Desk: 2 seats/computers (1 of which must be ADA compliant)

Front Lobby Kiosk: 1 height-adjustable seat/computer (like current Welcome Desk)

"Alley" workstation (adjacent to west bookdrop area): 1 seat/computer (like current "Alley")

Manager's Office: single workstation, 2 guest chairs

### Department Office:

- Assistant Manager space
- 2 dedicated FT stations for ILL staff
- 2 PT workstations (Circulation)
- 1 PT workstation (Shelvers)
- counter space for collection work
- space for carts - both at workstations (when in use) and more substantial area for shared (like current AMH room)
- degree of cabinetry/storage

AMH space

# Emerging Service Trends: Staff Spaces

## Digital & Maker Services

Service Desk 1 (upstairs/Computers):

- one substantial station/desk - 1 seat/computers (room for patron to sit adjacent)

Service Desk 2 (downstairs/Maker Space):

- one substantial station/desk - 1 seat/computers

Manager's Office: single workstation, 2 guest chairs

Department Office:

- Assistant Manager space (larger allocation than other FT staff)
- 3 dedicated FT stations (one user assigned to each, 1 could be in basement)
- 2 flexible PT stations
- counter space
- space for equipment/projects
- degree of cabinetry/storage
- Shared use of collaborative conference room: conference table(s) with 6-10 chairs

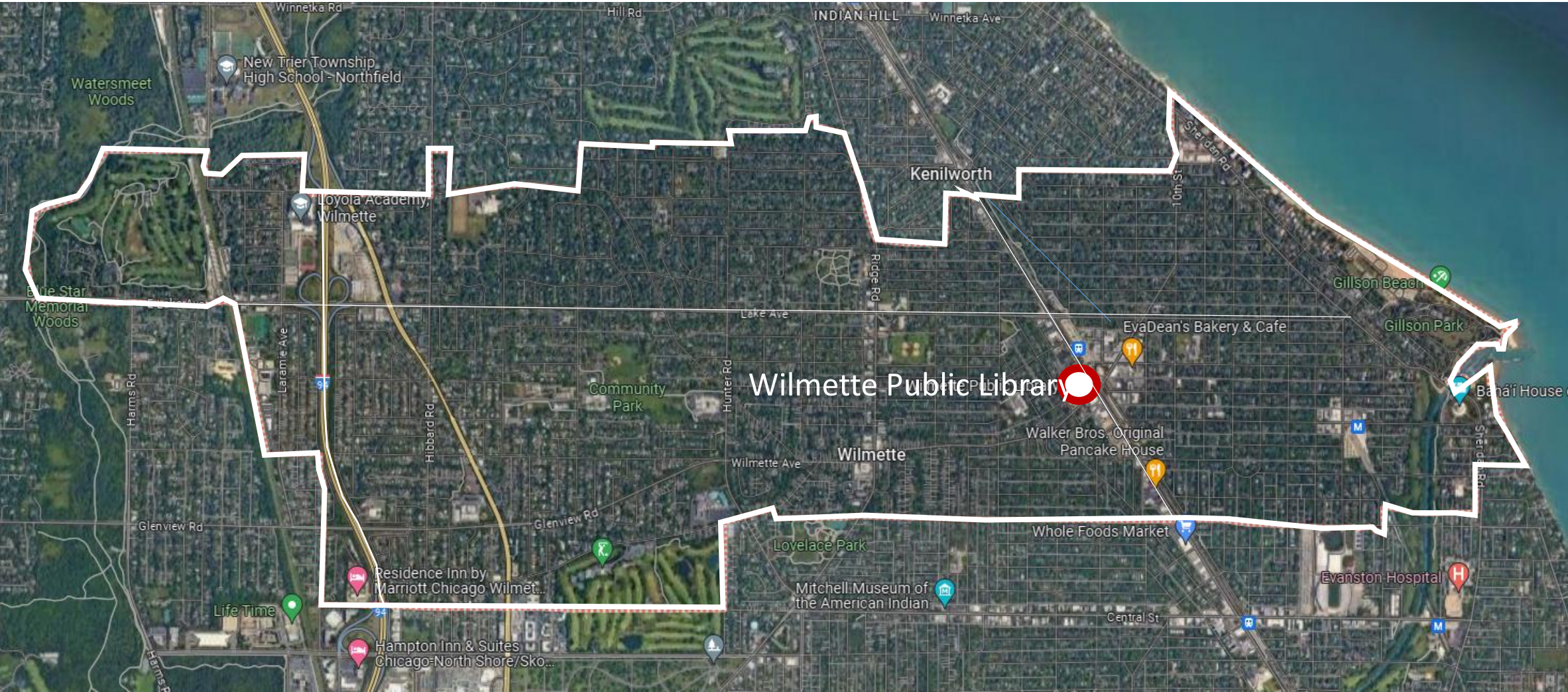
2b

# Space Distribution Needs

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Balancing Access to Representative Services

# Distribution of Space Within the District



# Do We Need Multiple Buildings? Reasons Why:

- *For most libraries, one or more of the following are the drivers behind the establishment of an additional physical service location.*
- *In Wilmette the geography of the district and the location of physical services suggest that access will not be as convenient for all residents as one would want.*
- *Given community goals related to walkability, the physical library favors the east end of the District at the expense of residents living on the west end.*

## **Access**

While there are a number of reasons to develop more than one facility to meet the library needs of a given community, they are typically manifestations of the need to provide better level of access than available through a single facility. Use levels are impacted by the amount of effort needed to visit a facility which in turn can be influenced by proximity (usually measured in drive time or walking distance), available transit or parking, and physical or perceived barriers (such as rivers or highways with limited crossings).

## **Targeted service population**

The existence of a special population that, by socio-economic, cultural, or other characteristic, warrants a special level of library service can be a driver of an additional facility. For the Wilmette, this driver is the quality of life expectation that drives the area's demand for high level educational and recreational services. Those performance levels include ease of access and quality of experience. Multiple service points can address both considerations.

## **Overall need for space**

Another aspect of this is the need for more space and the lack of space or the high cost to develop the needed space at the original facility or at another site. Adding another location can address overall space needs within a community with little available site options for a single larger facility. This is often a secondary rationale as the cost to maintain two facilities can be a factor either in amount or in mechanism (capital vs operational) and may be significant.

## **Differing service needs**

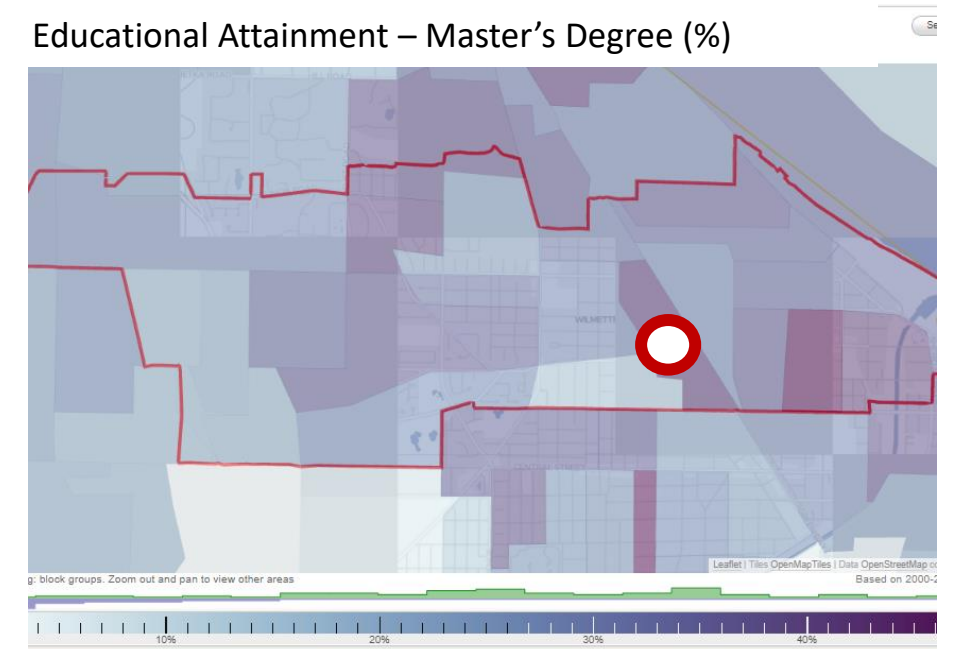
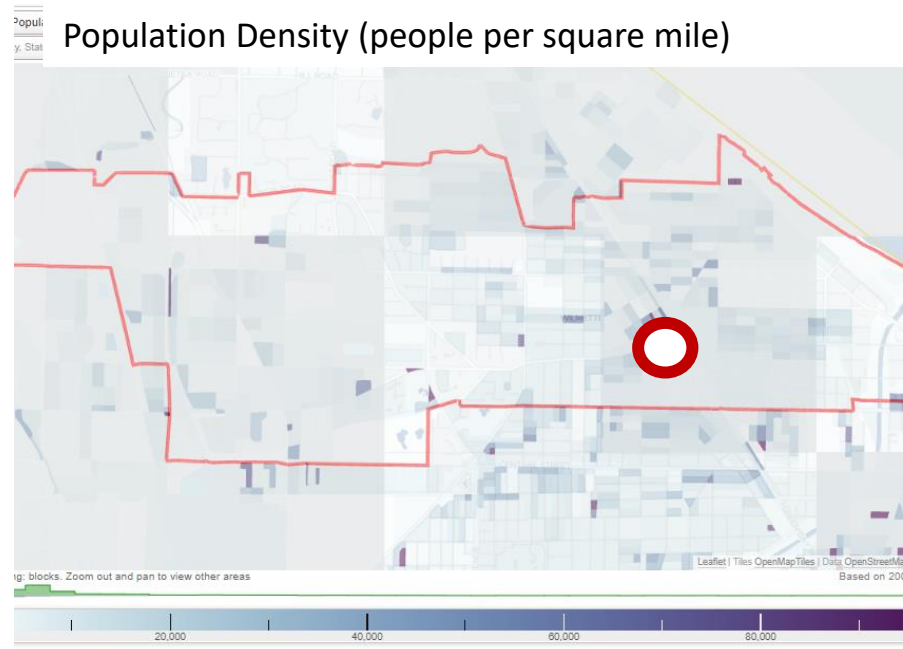
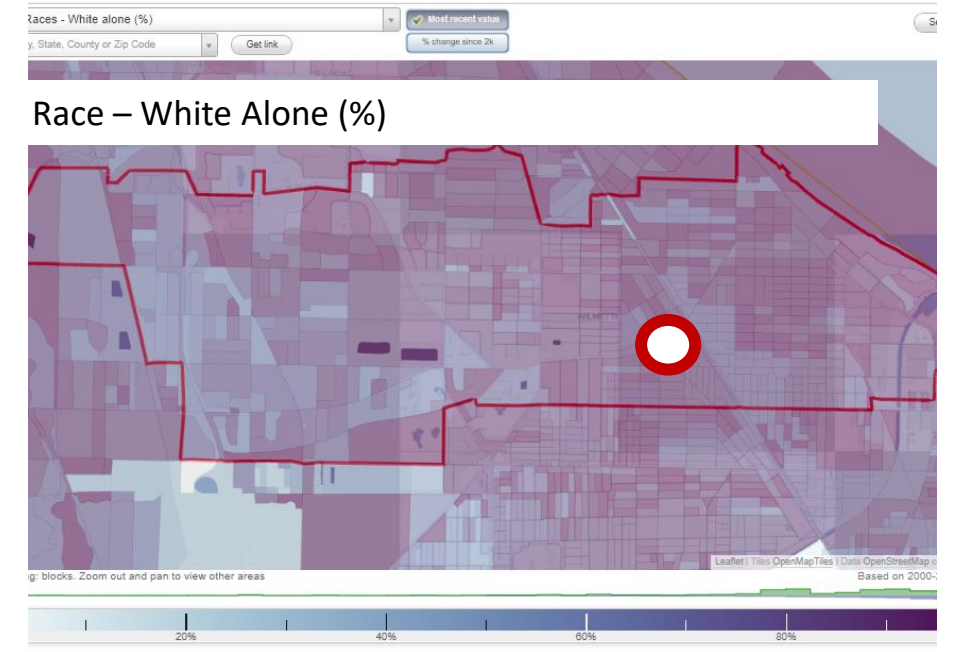
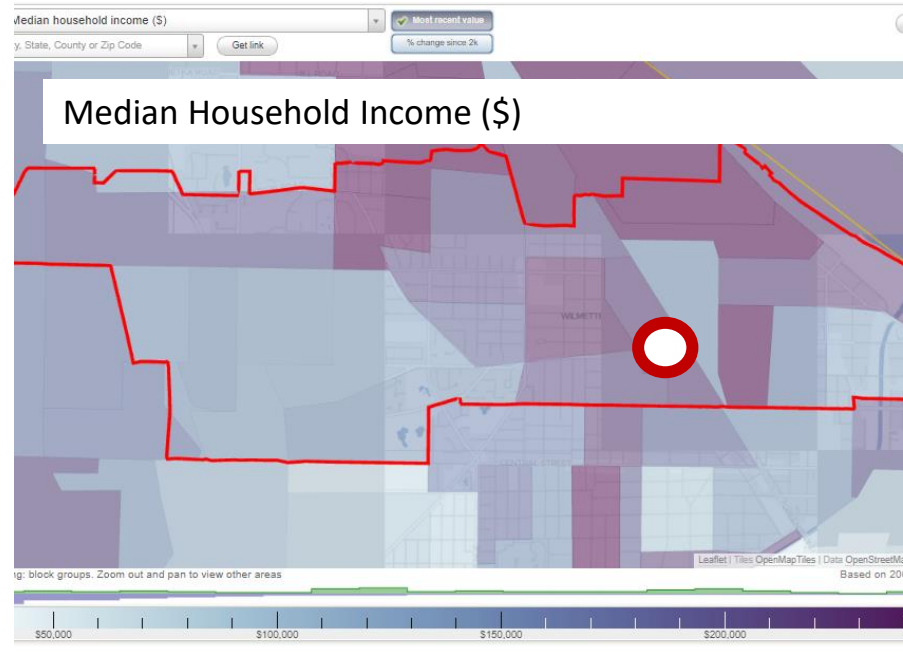
A third aspect is the varying library needs of various parts of a community. Multiple facilities allows the library to tailor services at each location to the residents of the areas served by each facility, thus becoming more effective. Support different use patterns

# Do We Need Multiple Buildings?

A geo-spatial assessment of District demographics.

From top left, clockwise:

- The Library is located on the more affluent end of the District.
- The Library is located on the less diverse end of the District.
- The Library is located more toward the areas with higher levels of education.
- There is no current population / population density basis for the physical library being so located.

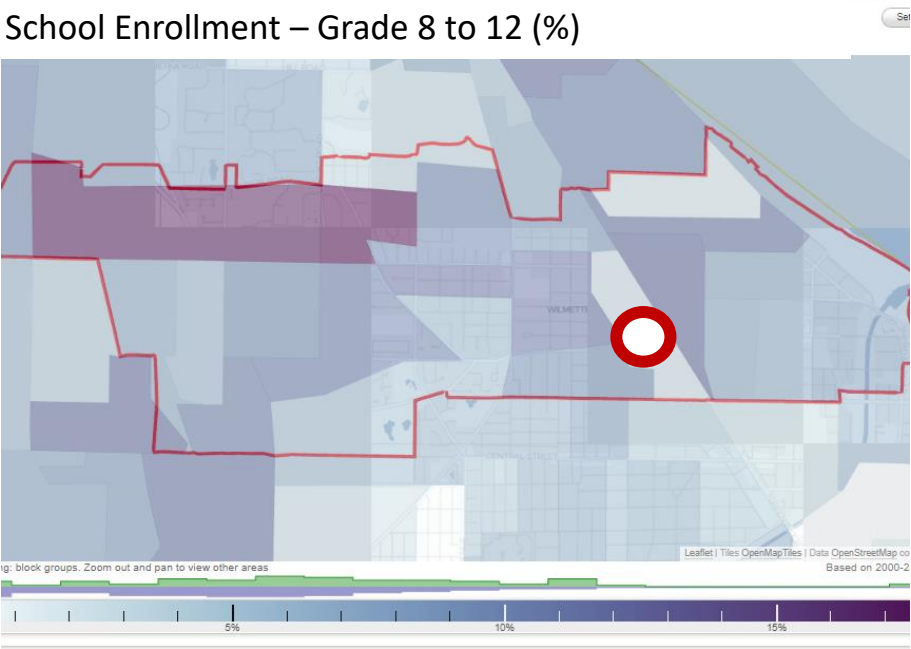
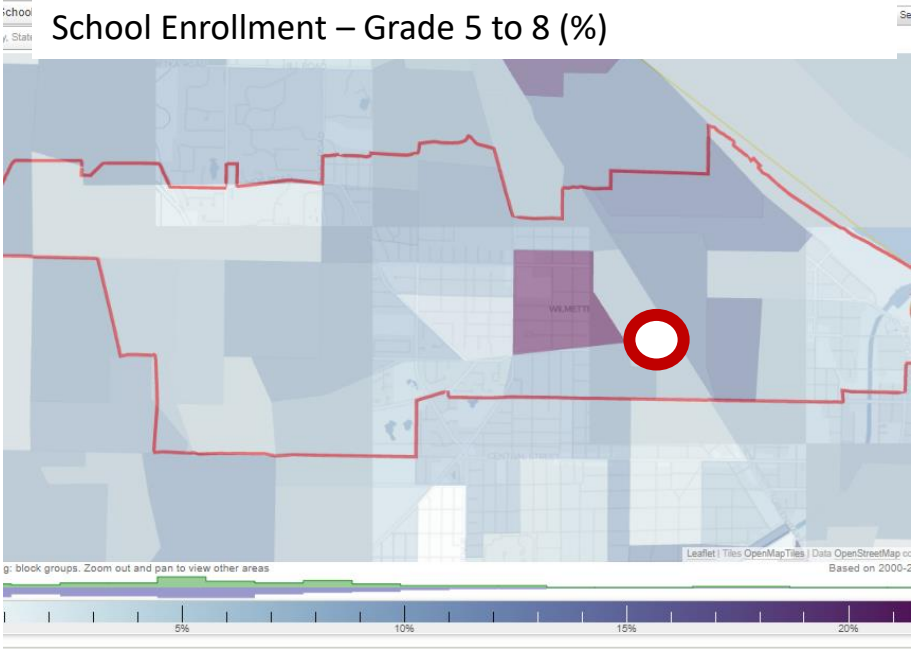
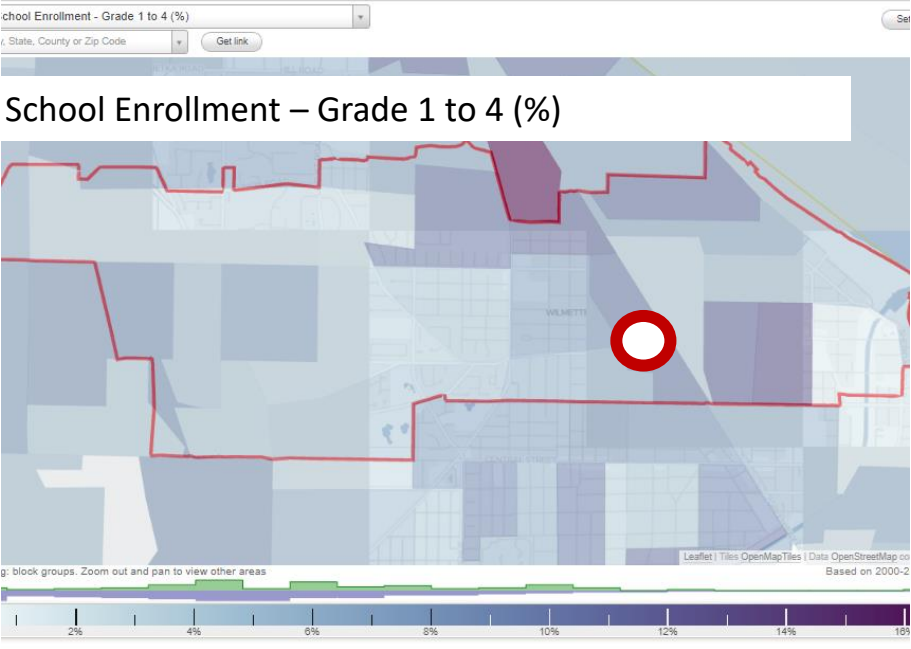
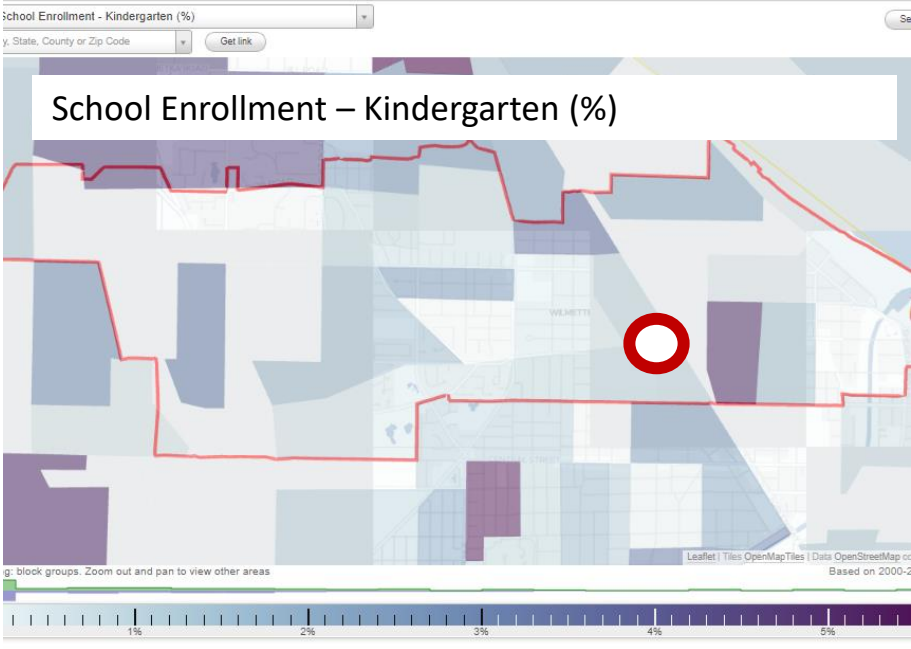


<https://www.city-data.com/city/Wilmette-Illinois.html/>

# Do We Need Multiple Buildings?

A geo-spatial assessment of District demographics.

From top left, clockwise, a comparison of the Library location to various school age populations.

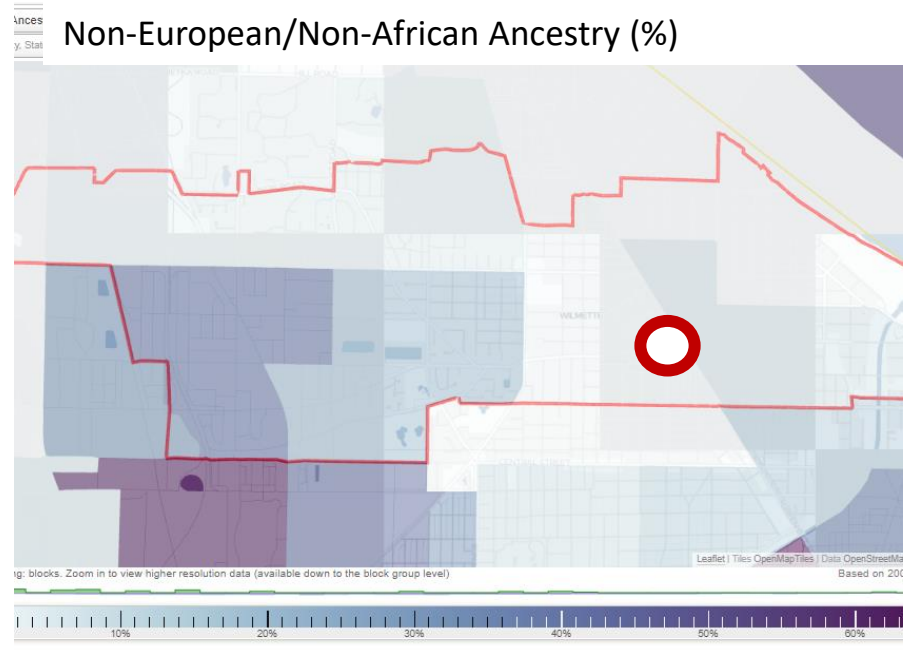
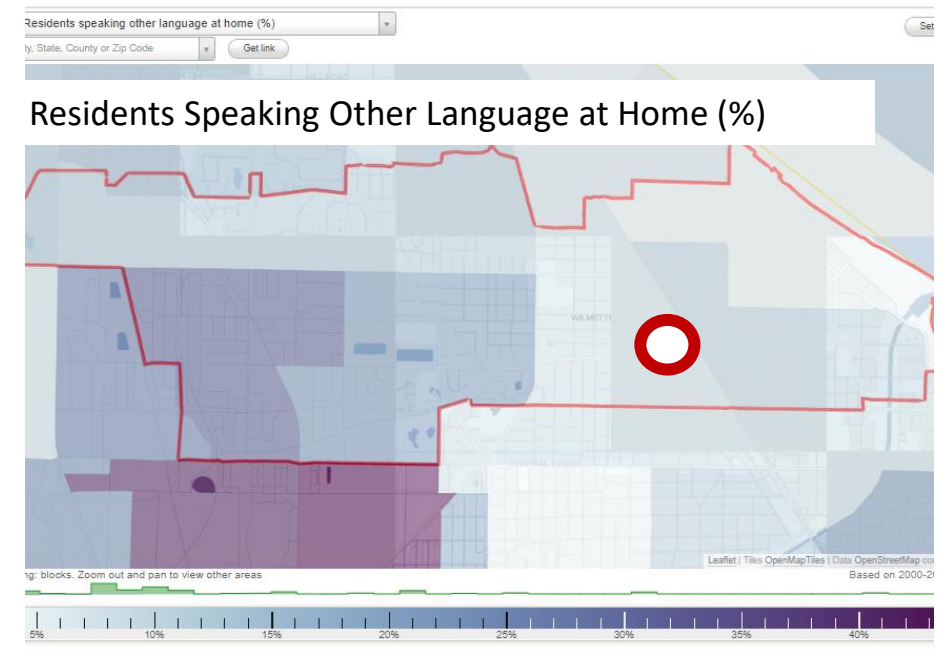
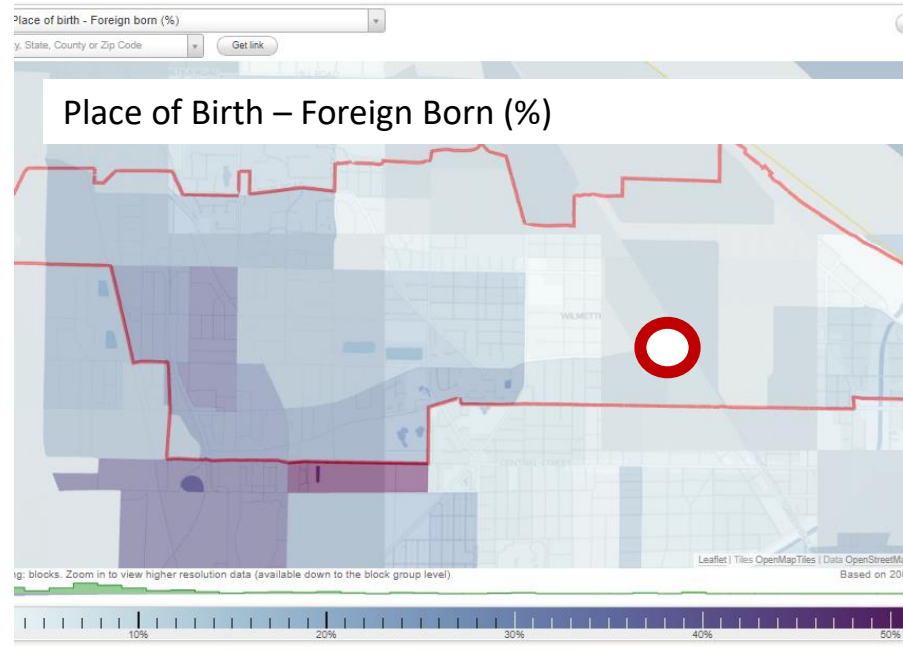


<https://www.city-data.com/city/Wilmette-Illinois.html/>

# Do We Need Multiple Buildings?

A geo-spatial assessment of District demographics.

From top left, clockwise, a comparison of the Library location to various population concentrations.



<https://www.city-data.com/city/Wilmette-Illinois.html/>



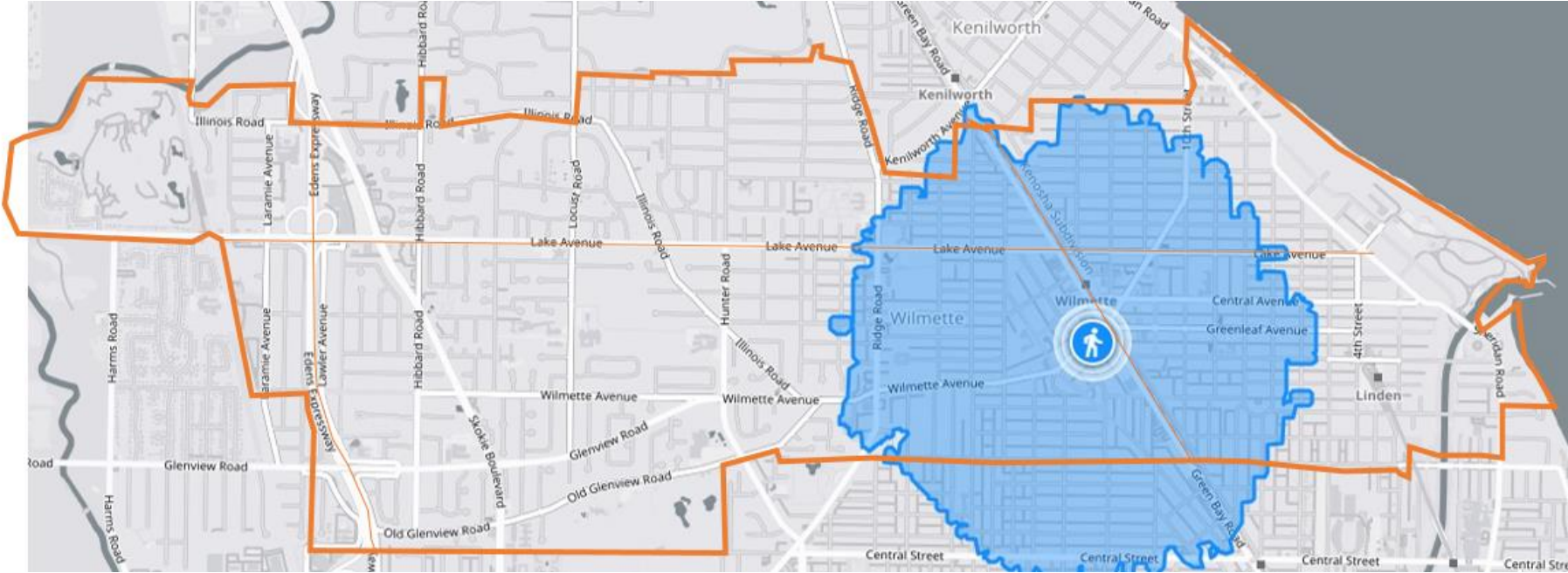
# Access

Top: 10 minute travel time to Wilmette Public Library by automobile.

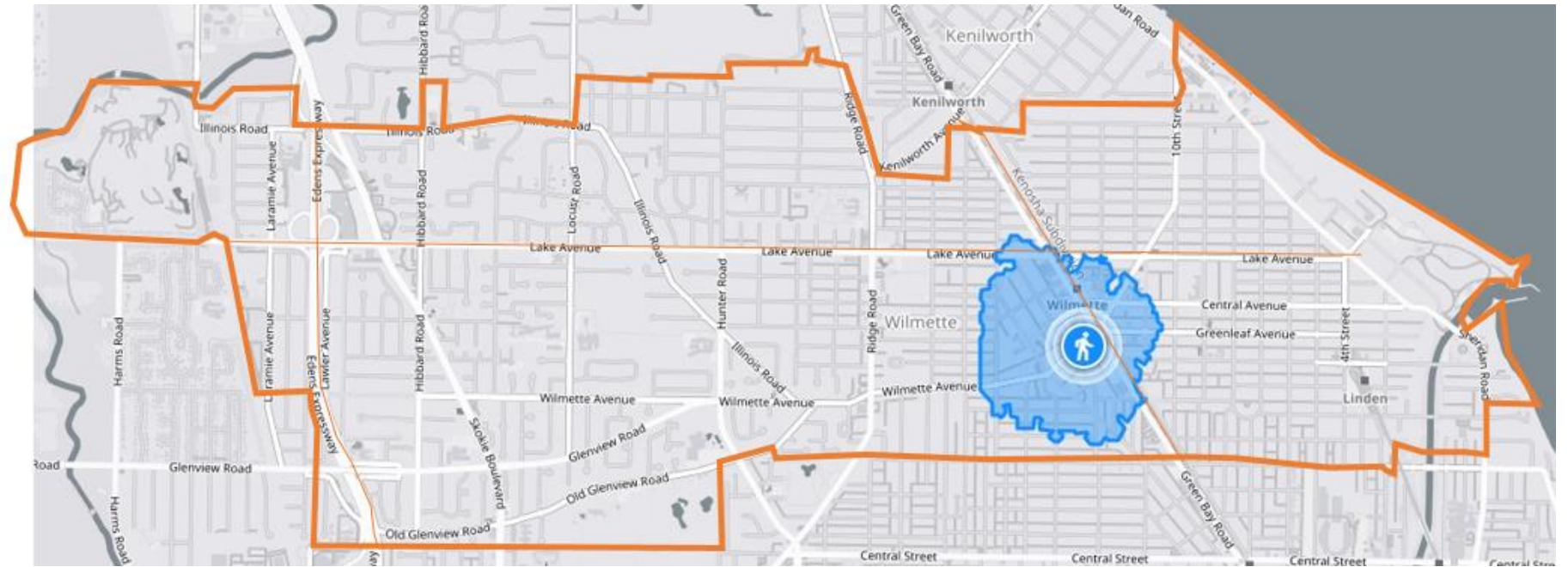


Bottom: 10 minute travel time to Wilmette Public Library by bicycle.

*Times are average of various times, conditions, and abilities.*



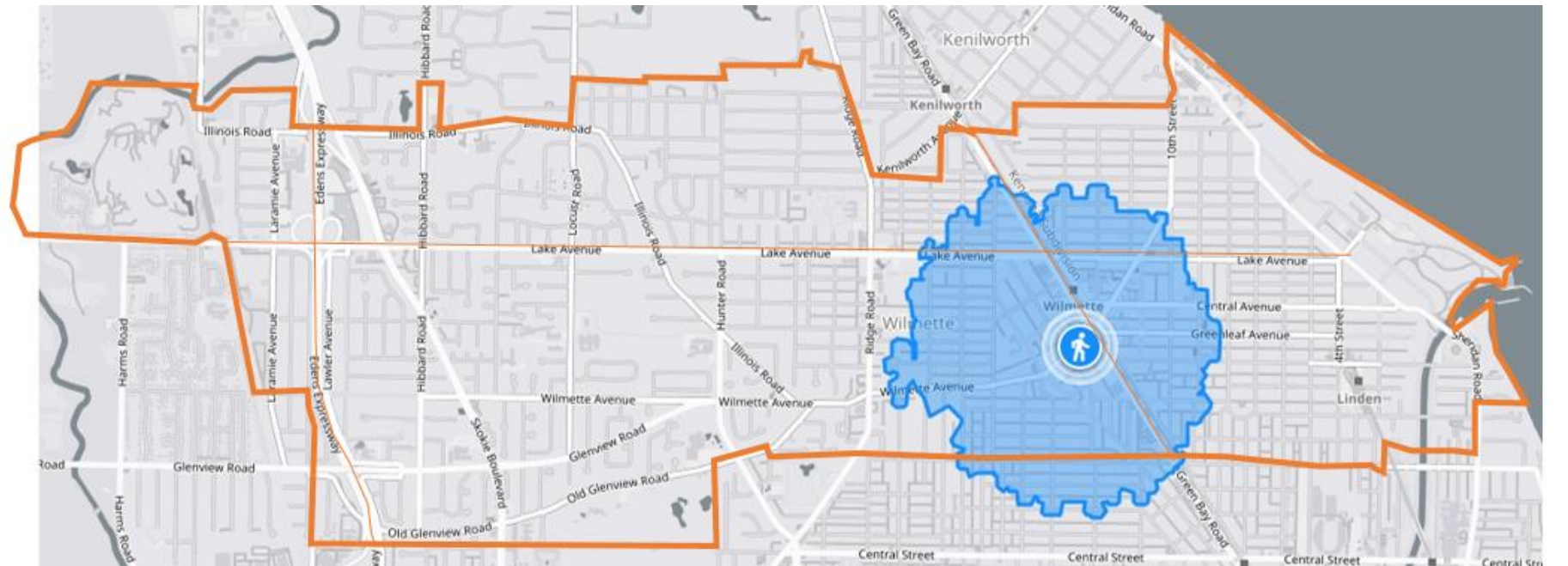
<https://app.traveltime.com/>



Top: 10 minute travel time to Wilmette Public Library on foot.

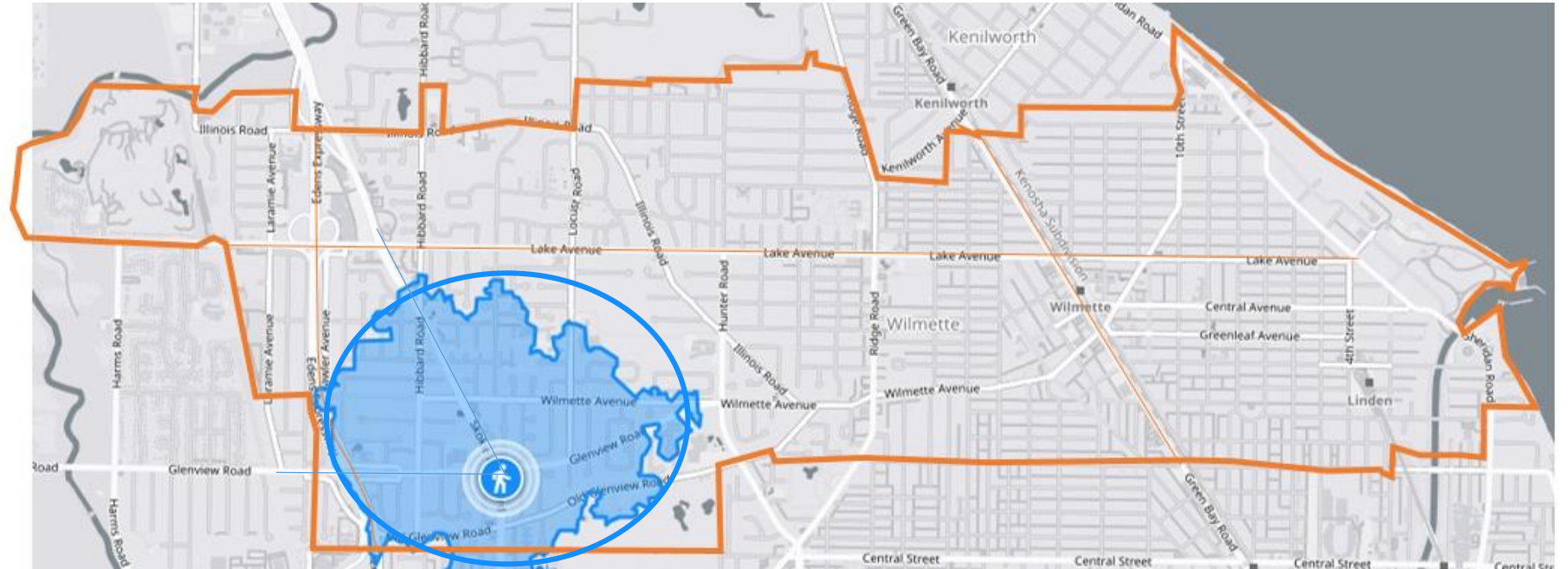
Bottom: 15 minute travel time to Wilmette Public Library on foot.

*Times are average of various times, conditions, and abilities.*



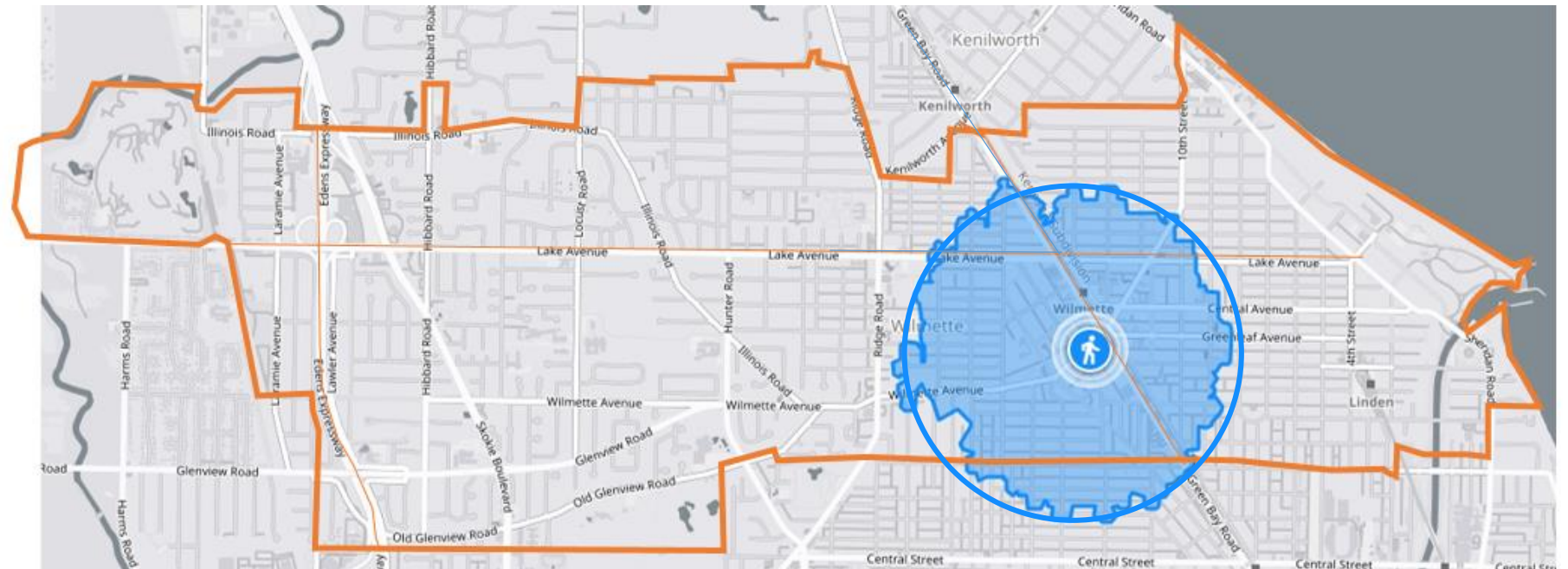
<https://app.traveltime.com/>

Top: 15 minute travel time to intersection of Glenview Road and Skokie Boulevard on foot.



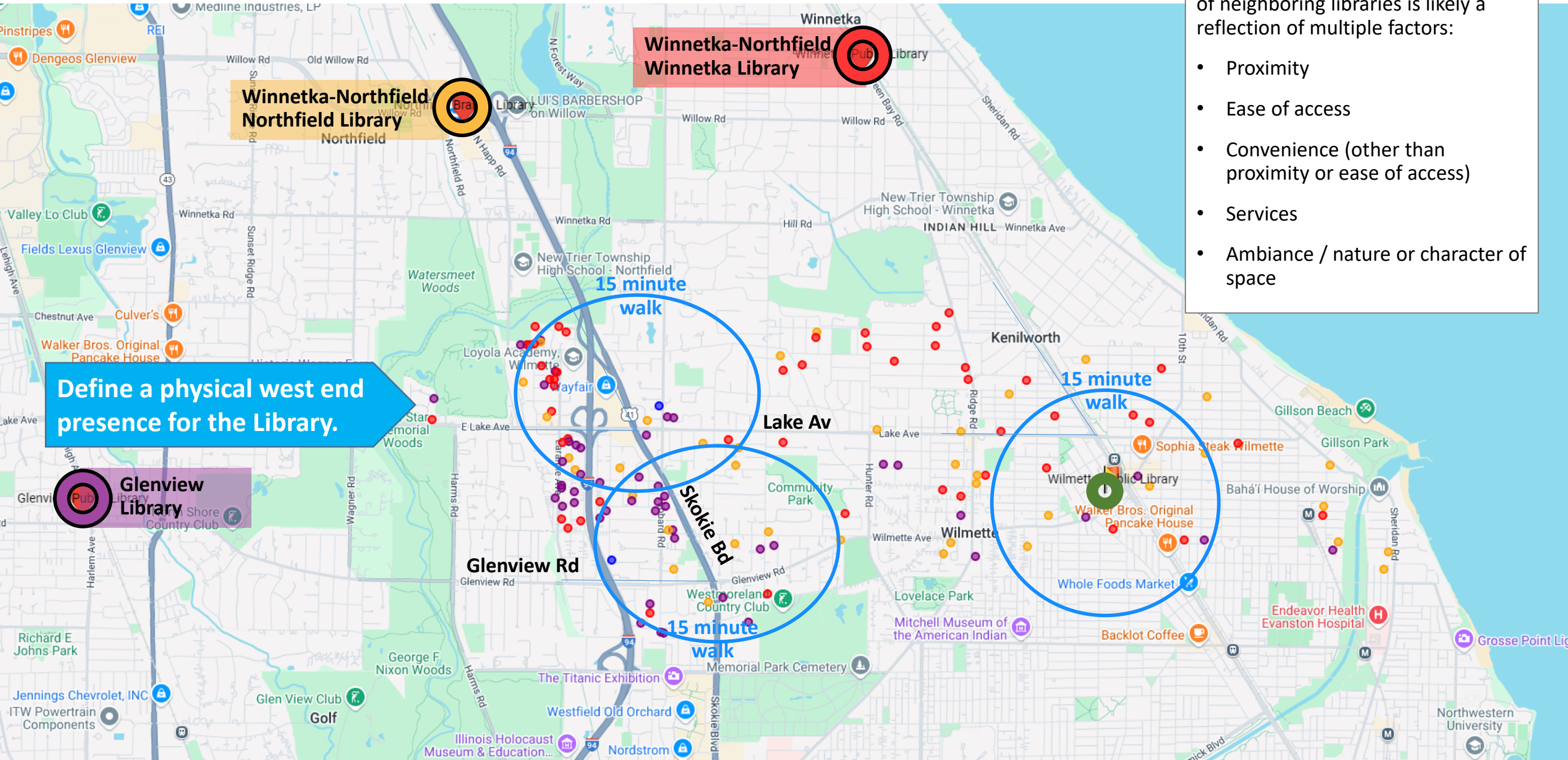
Bottom: 15 minute travel time to Wilmette Public Library on foot.

*Times are average of various times, conditions, and abilities.*



<https://app.traveltime.com/>

# Resident Use of Neighboring Libraries



Library data related to resident use of neighboring libraries is likely a reflection of multiple factors:

- Proximity
- Ease of access
- Convenience (other than proximity or ease of access)
- Services
- Ambiance / nature or character of space

<https://reports.ccslib.org/WILMETTE:DidNotUseWilmette.html>

# Do We Need Multiple Buildings? Space Distribution Evaluation Criteria

## Test the West Library concept for sustainability.

*If there is sufficient motivation to develop another facility, there are a number of tests that should be conducted to assess the sustainability of such a service model.*

### Strength of overall library program

The library needs to have the ability to provide operational and capital funding, collections, staffing, and core service programs at the initial library and to support branch activity without critically diminishing the initial service location. Without a sustainable economic model, any investment in a second facility could divert financial resources and weaken the service within the community.

### Availability of other library resources in the area

Other sources of library resources may be accessible by those a branch would be intended to serve. These sources may be easier to reach or offer broader (better) services than can be delivered via a branch. There are a number of such sources near the WPLD facilities, many of which offer a different range of services. Community surveys and input sessions speak directly to the expectation that both a significant local service component and easy access to adjacent libraries is valued. WPLD serves patrons with high expectations for quality service, depth of resource, ease of access, and broad choices in library service. They want the option of using adjacent libraries but do not want to be forced to rely on those adjacent facilities.

### Projected utilization of the proposed branch

A branch should circulate enough items, conduct enough programming, generate enough use of activity space, and see sufficient overall use so that the cost of operation at the branch is similar to that of the main library. The existing use of the current facilities already passes the circulation test. Other aspects of library service are lacking and would be the drivers behind a shift in the quantity of space and a broadening of the use pattern.

# Do We Need Multiple Buildings? Branch Typologies

**Test sustainability based on specific branch typology.**

*The distribution of space is impacted by the amount of space and nature of services available at various locations within and adjacent to the District.*

Branch libraries come in a range of typical configurations that are adapted to meet specific service area characteristics, community dynamics, and budgetary considerations. In addition to a single or main library model there are three types of branches that would be most appropriate to consider: the Regional Library, the Full Service Neighborhood Library, and the Storefront Library. The following brief descriptions outline each configuration's characteristics.

## **Regional Library**

This is a library intended to provide the full scope of services of a "main" library, and provide them in some depth. Common characteristics of a full service regional branch:

- owned space of between 20,000 to 30,000 square feet
- collections of 45,000 to 60,000 print and non-print items
- 2 or 3 public service desks (by example: circulation, reference, youth)
- staff of 8 to 12 FTE
- specialized staff such as reference and children's librarians
- a full programming schedule supported by branch staff
- meeting room(s) and other program spaces

## **Full Service Neighborhood Library**

This is a library intended to support the popular, day to day service needs of a defined population. Common characteristics of a neighborhood branch:

- leased or owned space of 5,000 to 10,000 square feet
- collections of 15,000 to 25,000 items
- a single public service desk
- staff of 4.0 to 6.0 FTE
- staff expertise targeted to reflect the branch's mission and scope
- programming supported by branch and main library staff
- a meeting room

# Do We Need Multiple Buildings? Branch Typologies

Small, flexible, convenient  
focused on local needs.

Partnership space.

## Storefront Library

This library is intended to support the drop-in service needs of an on-the-go population. Common characteristics of a storefront branch:

- leased space of between 1,500 or 2,000 and 3,500 to 4,000 square feet
- collections of 7,500 to 10,000 items, depending...
- a single public service desk
- staff of 4.0 to 5.0 FTE
- staff expertise targeted to reflect the branch's mission and scope
- open-floor programming supported by branch and main library staff
- limited collaborative space
- utilize partnership spaces if available

# E Existing Building Characteristics and Capabilities

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A Framework for Facility Improvements based on Services



# 3

## Facility Effectiveness Review

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Current Ability and Potential to Support On-Going and Emerging Services

A Combination of Condition and Configuration.

# Lower Level | Existing Space Use



## NOTES

Existing public space has two primary uses.

- Group activities in the auditorium, a meeting room, and three small study / project rooms, and a three large collection storage spaces.
- The collection space are difficult to find, are inaccessible except by a two-elevator path, and characterized by low ceilings, high stacks, narrow aisles, antiquated shelves, uneven lighting, and limited display.

<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:yellow; border:1px solid black;"></span>	Children's related spaces
<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:orange; border:1px solid black;"></span>	Marketplace
<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:lightorange; border:1px solid black;"></span>	Adult & Teen related spaces
<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:lightgreen; border:1px solid black;"></span>	Event or Multi-Purpose spaces
<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:lightblue; border:1px solid black;"></span>	Staff Spaces
<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:red; border:2px solid red; border-radius:50%;"></span>	Public Service Point
<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:grey; border:1px solid black;"></span>	Storage spaces
<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:darkgrey; border:1px solid black;"></span>	Equipment spaces
<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; border:1px dashed black;"></span>	Zone or area, not a room
<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; border:1px solid black;"></span>	Room
	K=Kitchen RR=Restroom
<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:red; border:1px solid black;"></span>	Elevator or Stair

0
  8'
  16'

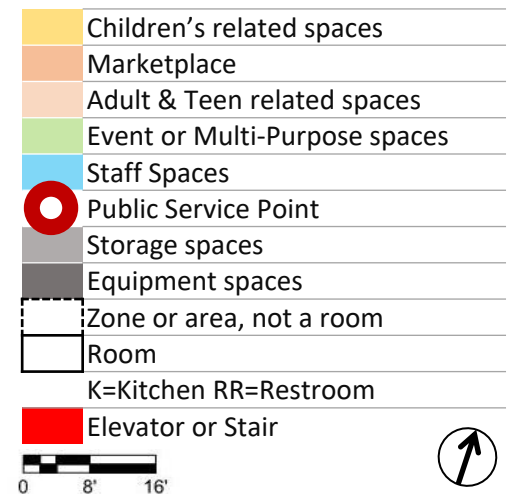
# Lower Level | Underutilized Space



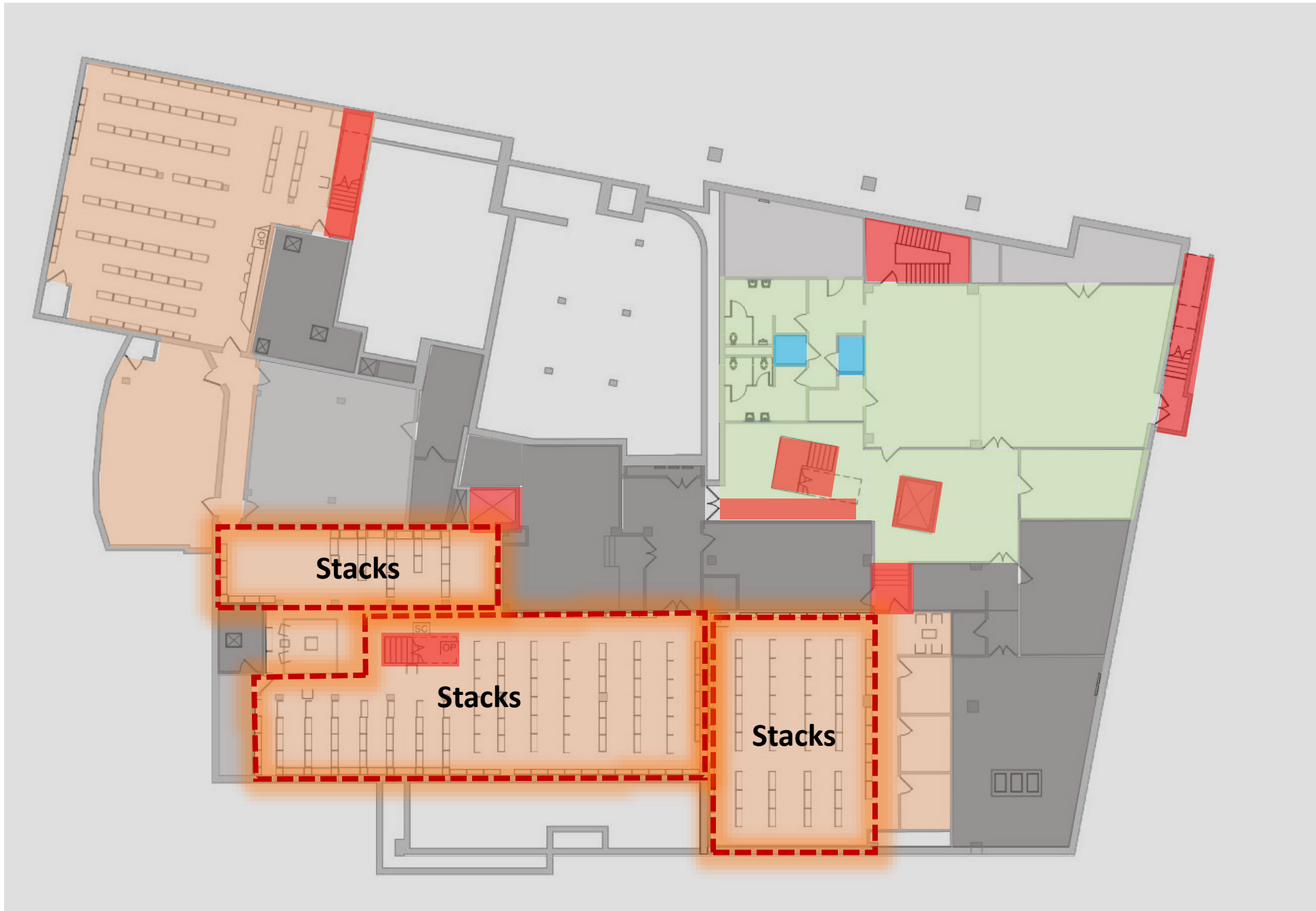
## NOTES

There are a number of spaces with low density usage.

- The 900s are essentially at half capacity and could withstand more weeding.
- Friends of the Library have a large space that is off major traffic paths and sees little use.
- The Storage area houses many items of little or no value in an enclosed space that limits connections between public areas.



# Lower Level | Underutilized Space



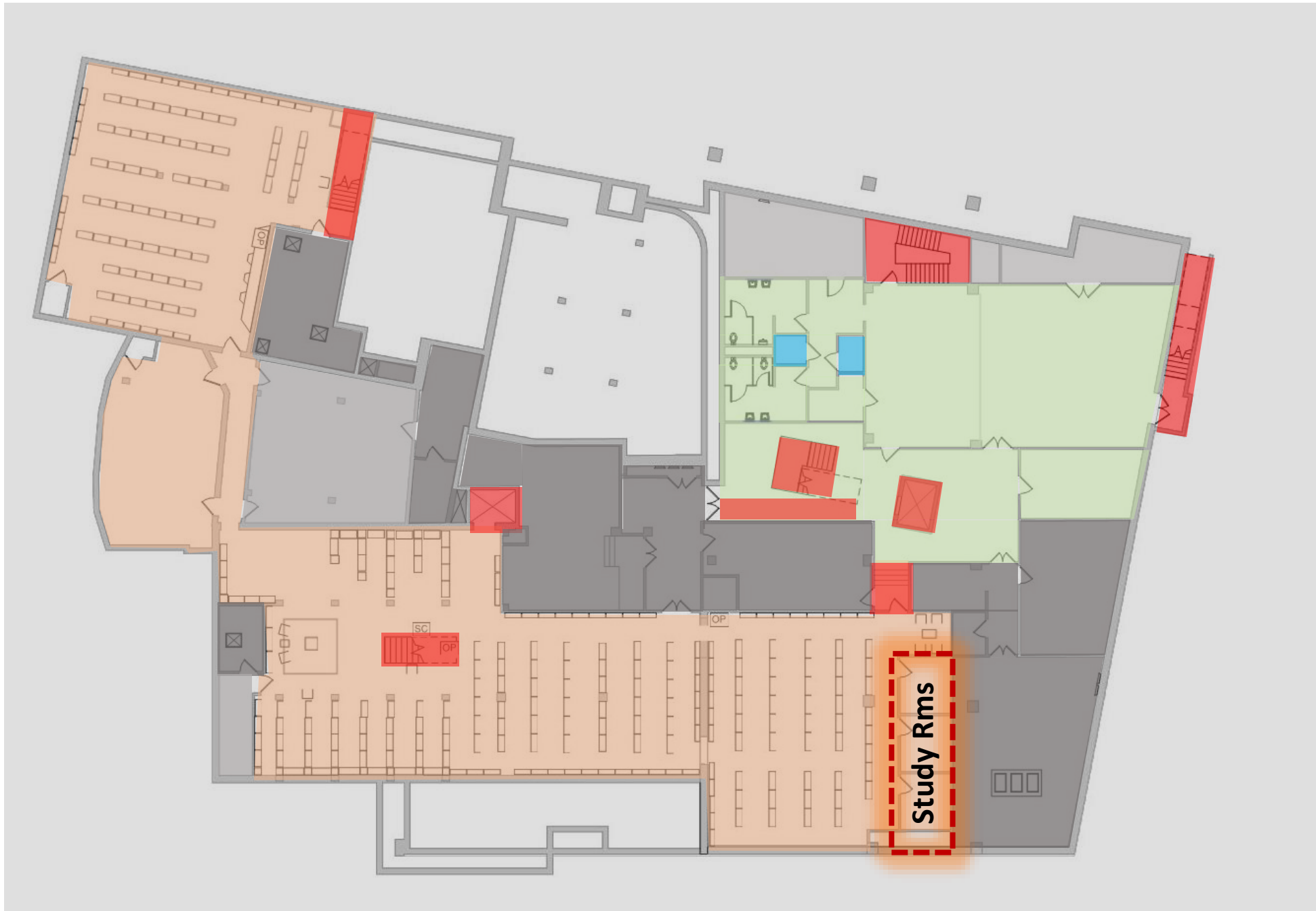
## NOTES

The stack areas are packed with materials but arranged in such a way as to limit access and comfortable browsing. As a result they are essentially storage with only occasional visitors. This adds to the “creepy” factor, discourages use by other patrons, makes browsing an isolating activity and hampers broad utilization efforts.

**This is the antithesis of the objectives set out in the Strategic Plan and the desires expressed by residents in the 2022 Survey.**

- Children’s related spaces
  - Marketplace
  - Adult & Teen related spaces
  - Event or Multi-Purpose spaces
  - Staff Spaces
  - Public Service Point
  - Storage spaces
  - Equipment spaces
  - Zone or area, not a room
  - Room
  - K=Kitchen RR=Restroom
  - Elevator or Stair
-

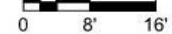
# Lower Level | Underutilized Space



## NOTES

The Study Rooms, also known as project rooms or small group activity rooms, are just becoming available again after COVID-related closures. They are not readily apparent, or understood to be public spaces. They do not see the use levels one would expect from what are usually highly prized spaces.

- Children's related spaces
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- Adult & Teen related spaces
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- Storage spaces
- Equipment spaces
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- Room
- K=Kitchen RR=Restroom
- Elevator or Stair



# Lower-Level | Main Stair and South Collection Area



**Key:**

- Performing well
- Performing poorly

## Signage

- Signage is varied. Some is very clear and graphically consistent with an established hierarchy that aids in determining the relevance of the information on each type of sign. Other signs are decidedly out of step with this hierarchy and graphic style. Greater consistency and a secondary set of graphics for staff spaces would help.
- Signage (both traditional and something less text based) is needed given the nature and convoluted path to and through the Lower-Level spaces.

## East Entry to collections spaces and the Group Project Rooms from the Main Stair

- This is anything but welcoming. Better lighting, clear, multifaceted signage, and other wayfinding will help. A larger opening, such as double doors or a large single door with a sidelight, or doors on hold-opens would all be helpful in making this into more of a portal and less of a pinch point.

## Group Project Rooms

- Replacing the opaque walls of the Group Project Rooms with glass would also aid in creating a visually inviting and clearer expression that patrons are welcome to enter this space. It would also aid in raising patron awareness of these spaces.

## Accessibility

- The path around the stair at the lower level is challenged. Space between the stair and the adjacent walls is minimal, restricting access to displays and introducing potential dead-end situations for individuals using mobility devices.

## Lighting

- Light levels on the stair are lower than those in the adjacent spaces. Higher contrast should favor the more difficult to traverse stairs. Better lighting over the stair and higher contrast stair nosings would aid those who have challenges discerning stair edges
- Lighting of display walls is uneven. This could be improved, and the combination of wall-washing lighting and display could be used as a wayfinding device for patrons to use in navigating the multiple zones of the Lower Level.
- There is good wall-washing light on the north wall of the collections area. This strategy should be used in more locations.
- Lighting along the south wall of the collections area should emulate that along the north wall.

# Lower-Level | Main Stair and South Collection Area



**Key:**

- Performing well
- Performing poorly

## Display Shelving

- ❑ The shelving along the north wall of the collections zone is face out and helps with wayfinding and creating a browsing environment.
- ❑ More face-out display (power wall environment) at the Elevator A Lobby would improve circulation. The face-out display at the seating area near the center stair and along the north wall of the collection zone are good examples.

## General Shelving

- ❑ The shelving in general is aged and does not add to the browsing experience. The shelving height, ceiling height, irregular light levels, and aisle width combine with the dark carpet color contribute to create an overall environment that many people find intimidating. Lower stacks, higher ceilings, brighter and more even lighting, and brighter colors on the shelving would help.
- ❑ Windowing of the collection would increase light distribution between aisles and raise awareness of people in adjacent aisles and thereby create a more social browsing experience and increase patrons' sense of security in the collection areas.
- ❑ There are a significant number of dead-end shelving aisles. This is not compliant with accessibility standards and provides situations in which patrons can become trapped. These dead-ends should be opened to permit movement into adjacent aisles.

## Finishes

- ❑ The ceiling is low. There is a mix of many styles and qualities (light reflectance, acoustic absorption, and aesthetics). The most impactful of these is the height. The plenum above the ceiling is deep enough to allow reconfiguration of ducts and piping and, thereby, raising of the ceiling. As an alternative, the ceiling could be omitted in part or in total.
- ❑ The flooring in the collection area is a mix of various dark colors and dated patterns. It has worn well but is decidedly at the end of its life. It is inconsistent with the quality of the flooring on the First and Second Floors. It sends a distinct signal that this space is not as prized as other spaces and that the service offered here are not on par with those found elsewhere in the building.

# Lower-Level | Tunnel & 900s Area



**Key:**

- Performing well
- Performing poorly

## General Arrangement

- ❑ The disconnected nature of these spaces is a major contributor to patron frustrations with the spaces and the reported “creepiness.”
- ❑ The 900s area is dissociated from just about every other public space in the building. Access is via a long, narrow, low ceiling corridor know as “the Tunnel” and an enclosed stair that to all appearances, and with the authority of several posted “exit only – alarm will sound signs” actively discourages patron use up to or down from the Audio-Visual area directly above on the First Floor.
- ❑ There is a distinctly underused storage space next to the Tunnel that houses an odd assortment of items on compact shelving. The walls of this room contribute to the narrowness of the Tunnel and form one of the primary barriers to connecting the 900s area to the South Collection area.

## General Shelving

- ❑ The shelving in general is a mix of very old and fragile wood shelving and decades old steel shelving. The shelving is tall, but the impact of this height is mitigated by the lack of a suspended ceiling, highly reflective white paint on the underside of the First Floor.

## Finishes

- ❑ The ceiling is low. There is a mix of many styles and qualities (light reflectance, acoustic absorption, and aesthetics). The most impactful of these is the height. The plenum above the ceiling is deep enough to allow reconfiguration of ducts and piping and, thereby, raising of the ceiling. As an alternative, the ceiling could be omitted in part or in total.
- ❑ The flooring in the collection area is a mix of various dark colors and dated patterns. It has worn well but is decidedly at e\the end of its life. It is inconsistent with the quality of the flooring on the First and Second Floors. It sends a distinct signal that this space is not as prized as other spaces and that the service offered here are not on par with those found elsewhere in the building.



# First Floor | Existing Space Use

## NOTES



- Children's related spaces
- Marketplace
- Adult & Teen related spaces
- Event or Multi-Purpose spaces
- Staff Spaces
- Public Service Point
- Storage spaces
- Equipment spaces
- Zone or area, not a room
- Room
- K=Kitchen RR=Restroom
- Elevator or Stair



# First Floor | Underutilized Space



## NOTES

The Audio Visual collection is in one of the nicest spaces in the building, It sees little traffic because of the convoluted path to and through it and the declining interest in physical media. Audio is/has moved to streaming as the primary means of access and video is in the process of following.

This is high value real estate that is not being used to its full potential.

- Children's related spaces
- Marketplace
- Adult & Teen related spaces
- Event or Multi-Purpose spaces
- Staff Spaces
- Public Service Point
- Storage spaces
- Equipment spaces
- Zone or area, not a room
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- Elevator or Stair

# First Floor | Overworked Space



## NOTES

Several staff workrooms on the this level are unrealistically small for their occupant count, tasks and need to be accessible. Like many of the workrooms in the building, they force fragmentation of the staff and hinder effective collaboration, coordination, and connection with the public.

- Children's related spaces
  - Marketplace
  - Adult & Teen related spaces
  - Event or Multi-Purpose spaces
  - Staff Spaces
  - Public Service Point
  - Storage spaces
  - Equipment spaces
  - Zone or area, not a room
  - Room
  - K=Kitchen RR=Restroom
  - Elevator or Stair
- 0 8' 16'
-

# First Floor | Challenged Space




## NOTES

Local History (LH) and the genre fiction collections are in spaces that are too small.

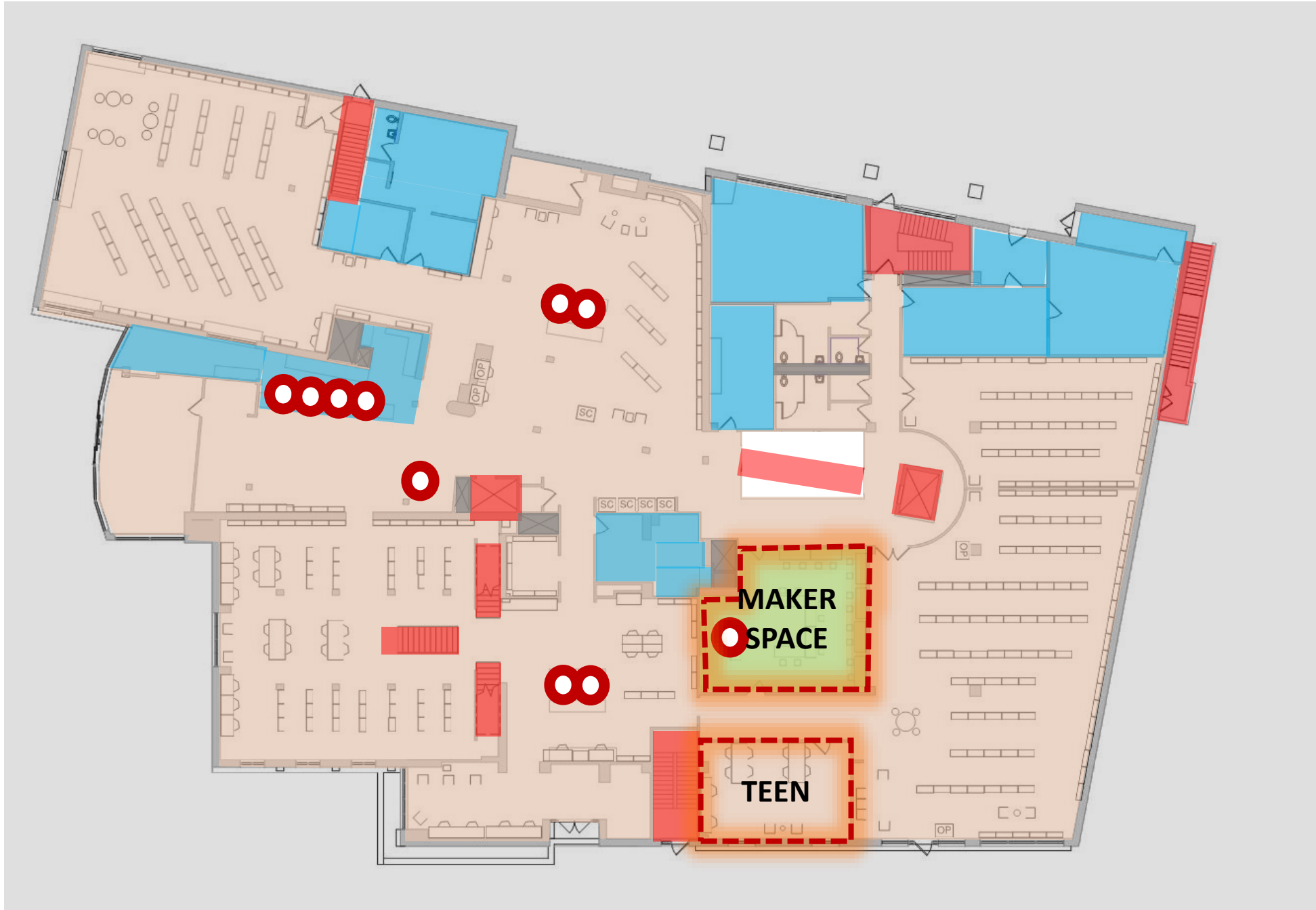
- The genre collection stacks are long, tall, and hidden.
- Local History needs space that is larger, more accessible, more protected from potential damage from piping and building systems, and better visibility.
- The Book Club collection is a clever use of space that is really too small and separated from adjacent spaces

	Children's related spaces
	Marketplace
	Adult & Teen related spaces
	Event or Multi-Purpose spaces
	Staff Spaces
	Public Service Point
	Storage spaces
	Equipment spaces
	Zone or area, not a room
	Room
	K=Kitchen RR=Restroom
	Elevator or Stair

0 8' 16'



# First Floor | Challenged Space



## NOTES

The Maker Space is lacking in adequate ventilation for essential equipment. Its location, while visible to many patrons, and inviting to teens, children and adults, occupies space that, along with other functions (staff workrooms, book club area, Teen room, further fragment the first floor.

Similarly, the Teen room helps to fragment the floor. It is underutilized, not necessarily an appealing location for the intended users, and often site empty.

- Children's related spaces
- Marketplace
- Adult & Teen related spaces
- Event or Multi-Purpose spaces
- Staff Spaces
- Public Service Point
- Storage spaces
- Equipment spaces
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- Room
- K=Kitchen RR=Restroom
- Elevator or Stair

0 8' 16'

# First Floor | Challenged Space

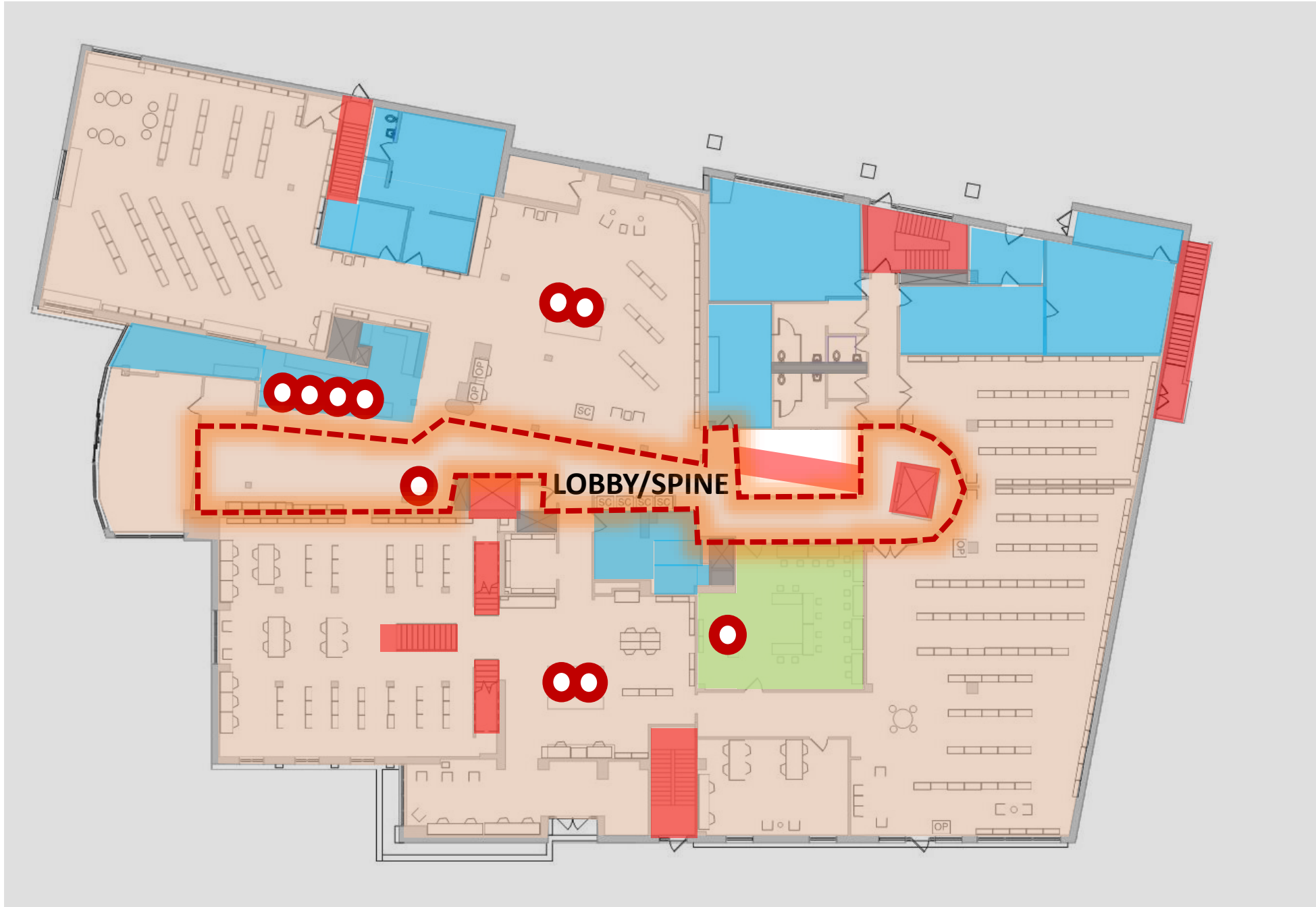


## NOTES

Reference is home to a frustrating mix of active/noisy two-person activities side by side with individual quiet activities. Computing and reference are antagonistic behaviors immediately adjacent to one another. Reference sounds spill into other adjacent spaces that would otherwise be places for quiet reading, study or research. The spaces above and under the Mezzanine fall into this category as does the “Studio” space along Wilmette Avenue.

- Children’s related spaces
  - Marketplace
  - Adult & Teen related spaces
  - Event or Multi-Purpose spaces
  - Staff Spaces
  - Public Service Point
  - Storage spaces
  - Equipment spaces
  - Zone or area, not a room
  - Room
  - K=Kitchen RR=Restroom
  - Elevator or Stair
- 0 8' 16'
-

# First Floor | Challenged Space



## NOTES

The central spine, the path connecting the entry vestibule, circulation lobby, and main stair, is long, amorphous, and filled with columns that inhibit easy comprehension of destinations, paths, and displays. It is a busy path with self-check, copy center, elevator, and restroom traffic squeezed in along the margins. This activity generates considerable noise that finds its way into space that are intended to be quieter.

- Children's related spaces
- Marketplace
- Adult & Teen related spaces
- Event or Multi-Purpose spaces
- Staff Spaces
- Public Service Point
- Storage spaces
- Equipment spaces
- Zone or area, not a room
- Room
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- Elevator or Stair

# First Floor | Challenged Space



## NOTES

The new books area is similarly a hodge-podge of visual and acoustic stimulation, that combined with a seemingly random assortment of displays and seating, creates a space that is difficult to understand and invites conflict between those using the active elements of the space (reader's advisory, copy center, browsing and general orientation) and those responding to the quiet space indicators (fireplace, lounge seating).

- Children's related spaces
- Marketplace
- Adult & Teen related spaces
- Event or Multi-Purpose spaces
- Staff Spaces
- Public Service Point
- Storage spaces
- Equipment spaces
- Zone or area, not a room
- Room
- K=Kitchen RR=Restroom
- Elevator or Stair

0 8' 16'



# First Floor | Audio Visual Collection



**Key:**

- Performing well
- Performing poorly

## Signage

- This is one of the key paths to the Lower Level. Signage to those spaces is explicitly contradictory to the goal of encouraging access.
- Signage is varied. Some is very clear and graphically consistent with an established hierarchy that aids in determining the relevance of the information on each type of sign. Other signs are decidedly out of step with this hierarchy and graphic style. Greater consistency and a secondary set of graphics for staff spaces would help.
- There is good collection signage that could be emulated elsewhere.

## Display Shelving

- The shelving in this area is good for the audio visual materials presented but those materials are not the highest and best use of this space. Consideration should be given to relocating these collections to another space in the building.

## Finishes

- The finishes in this space are better than in most areas, especially in comparison to the Lower Level.

# First Floor | Mezzanine and Under Mezzanine, Studio



## Key:

- Performing well
- Performing poorly

## General Arrangement

- ❑ The location of this space and the configuration of the mezzanine and proximity of the stair to the Lower Level suggest that this space be redeveloped as something more akin to a gateway to reference and related services and collections.

## Finishes

- ❑ The ceiling is low. There is a mix of many styles and qualities (light reflectance, acoustic absorption, and aesthetics). The most impactful of these is the height. The plenum above the ceiling is deep enough to allow reconfiguration of ducts and piping and, thereby, raising of the ceiling. As an alternative, the ceiling could be omitted in part or in total.

## General Shelving

- ❑ The shelving in general is aged and does not add to the browsing experience. The shelving height, ceiling height, irregular light levels, and aisle width combine with the dark carpet color contribute to create an overall environment that many people find intimidating. Lower stacks, higher ceilings, brighter and more even lighting, and brighter colors on the shelving would help.
- ❑ Windowing of the collection would increase light distribution between aisles and raise awareness of people in adjacent aisles and thereby create a more social browsing experience and increase patrons' sense of security in the collection areas.

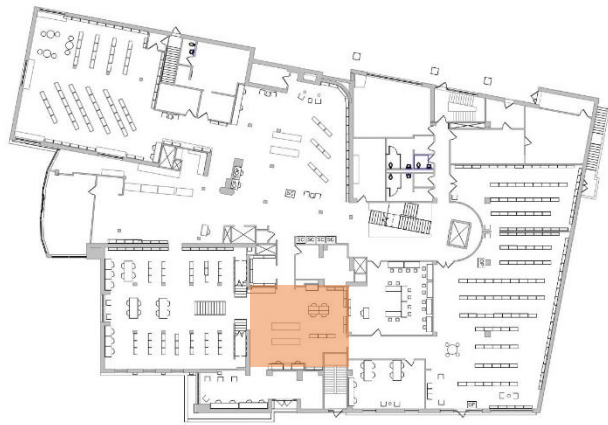
## Signage

- ❑ Signage is varied. Some is very clear and graphically consistent with an established hierarchy that aids in determining the relevance of the information on each type of sign. Other signs are decidedly out of step with this hierarchy and graphic style. Greater consistency and a secondary set of graphics for staff spaces would help.

## Lighting

- ❑ Light levels on the stair are lower than those in the adjacent spaces. Higher contrast should favor the more difficult to traverse stairs. Better lighting over the stair and higher contrast stair nosings would aid those who have challenges discerning stair edges
- ❑ Lighting of display walls is uneven. This could be improved, and the combination of wall-washing lighting and display could be use as a wayfinding device for patrons to use in navigating the multiple zones of the Lower Level.
- ❑ Lighting under and above the Mezzanine floor should be aligned with uses in these locations.

# First Floor | Reference



**Key:**

- Performing well
- Performing poorly

## General Arrangement

- The Reference area is one of a series of spaces that create the fragmented nature of the First Floor. These spaces are a major contributor to patron frustrations with finding the services and spaces they are seeking. A better balance of boutique spaces arranged in an intuitive way is needed.
- The use of the space for both conversational and quiet activities is a source of frustration for all. Separating these working styles is important.

## General Shelving

- The shelving in general is a mix of very old and fragile wood shelving and decades old steel shelving. The shelving is tall, but the impact of this height is mitigated by the lack of a suspended ceiling, highly reflective white paint on the underside of the First Floor.

## Finishes

- The ceiling is exceptionally high. This leads to issues with achieving even lighting and controlling sound transfer.
- The space is dominated by the blonde wood look of the original building

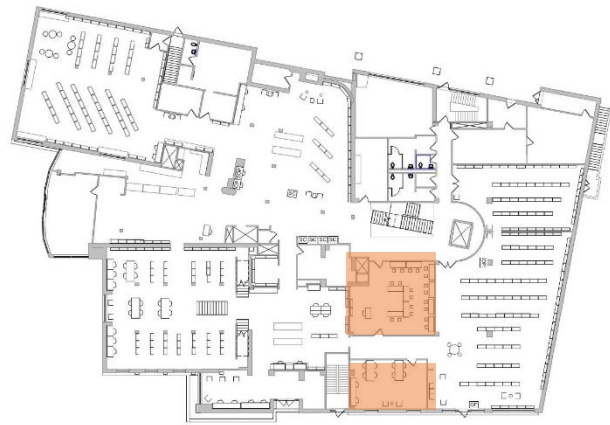
## Signage

- Signage is varied. Some is very clear and graphically consistent with an established hierarchy that aids in determining the relevance of the information on each type of sign. Other signs are decidedly out of step with this hierarchy and graphic style. Greater consistency and a secondary set of graphics for staff spaces would help.

## Lighting

- Light levels on the stair are lower than those in the adjacent spaces. Higher contrast should favor the more difficult to traverse stairs. Better lighting over the stair and higher contrast stair nosings would aid those who have challenges discerning stair edges.

# First Floor | Teen and Maker Rooms



## Key:

- Performing well
- Performing poorly

## General Arrangement

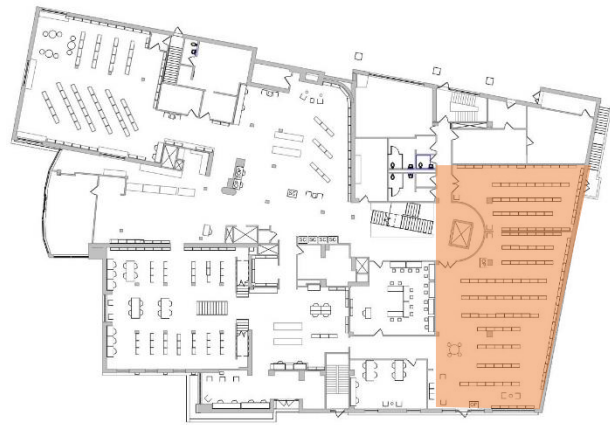
- These rooms are part of a series of spaces that create the fragmented nature of the First Floor. These spaces are a major contributor to patron frustrations with finding the services and spaces they are seeking. A better balance of boutique spaces arranged in an intuitive way is needed.
- The Maker Space is lacking in adequate ventilation for essential equipment. Its location, while visible to many patrons, and inviting to teens, children and adults, occupies space that, along with other functions (staff workrooms, book club area, Teen room, further fragment the first floor.
- Similarly, the Teen room helps to fragment the floor. It is underutilized, not necessarily an appealing location for the intended users, and often site empty.
- The Teen room is separated from much of its collection. The various spaces that support specialized Teen services need to be considered holistically. Access to more general use space should be balanced with the specialized Teen spaces.

## Signage

- Signage is varied. Some is very clear and graphically consistent with an established hierarchy that aids in determining the relevance of the information on each type of sign. Other signs are decidedly out of step with this hierarchy and graphic style. Greater consistency and a secondary set of graphics for staff spaces would help.

## Lighting

# First Floor | East Collection Spaces



**Key:**

- Performing well
- Performing poorly

## General Arrangement

- ❑ These rooms are part of a series of spaces that create the fragmented nature of the First Floor. These spaces are a major contributor to patron frustrations with finding the services and spaces they are seeking. A better balance of boutique spaces arranged in an intuitive way is needed.
- ❑ The general fiction and genre collections are dissociated from new materials and other “popular materials” that are typically in greater proximity to facilitate browsing.

## General Shelving

- ❑ The shelving in general is a mix of very old and fragile wood shelving and decades old steel shelving. The east wall is very chaotic.
- ❑ Shelving near the south wall is exposed to significant amounts of sunlight. The collections displayed on this shelving age quickly and look worn before their time.

## Finishes

- ❑ The ceiling is low. There is a mix of many styles and qualities (light reflectance, acoustic absorption, and aesthetics). The most impactful of these is the height. The plenum above the ceiling is deep enough to allow reconfiguration of ducts and piping and, thereby, raising of the ceiling. As an alternative, the ceiling could be omitted in part or in total.

## Signage

- ❑ Signage is varied. Some is very clear and graphically consistent with an established hierarchy that aids in determining the relevance of the information on each type of sign. Other signs are decidedly out of step with this hierarchy and graphic style. Greater consistency and a secondary set of graphics for staff spaces would help.

## Lighting

# Second Floor | Existing Space Use

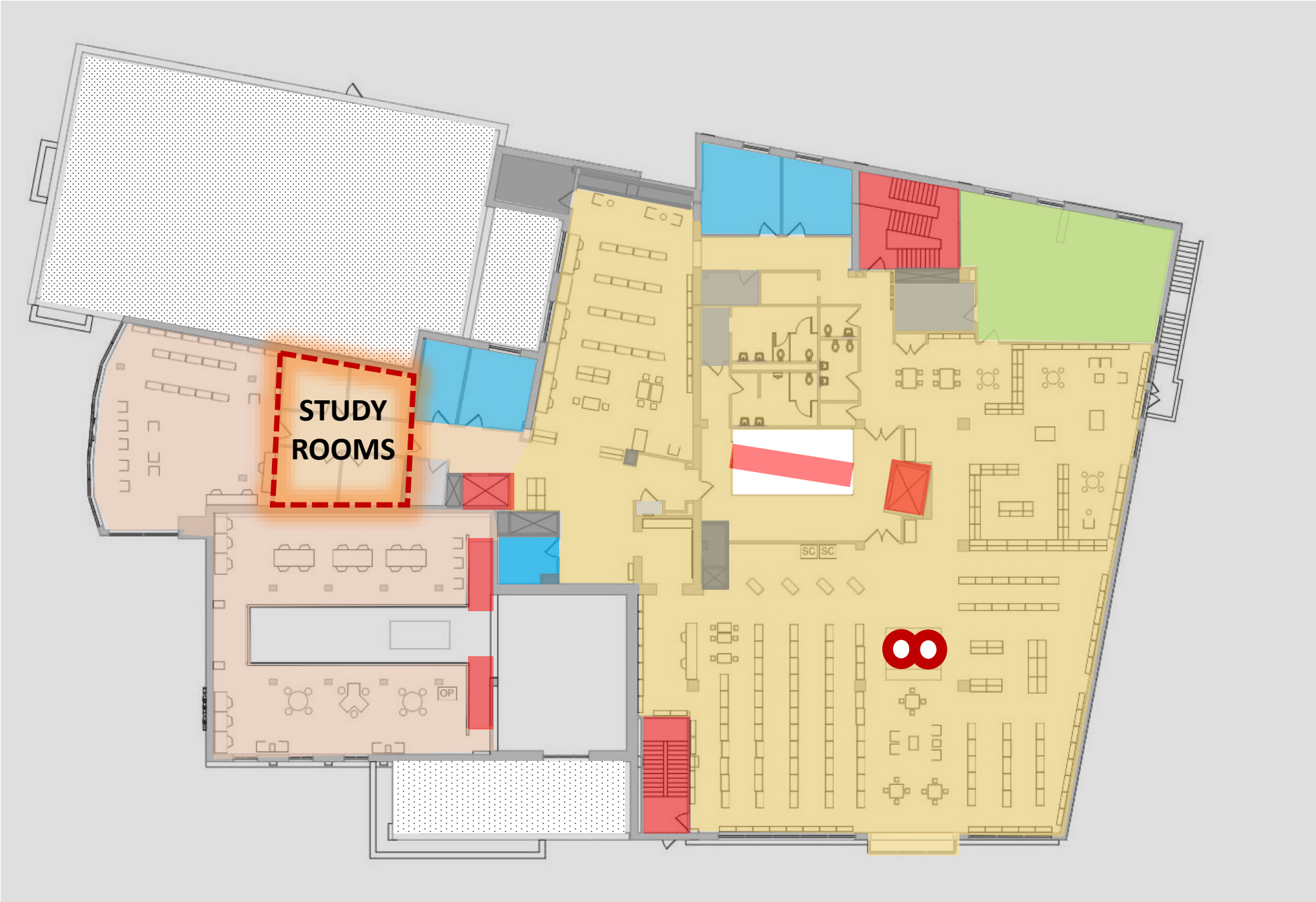
**NOTES**



- Children's related spaces
- Marketplace
- Adult & Teen related spaces
- Event or Multi-Purpose spaces
- Staff Spaces
- Public Service Point
- Storage spaces
- Equipment spaces
- Zone or area, not a room
- Room
- K=Kitchen RR=Restroom
- Elevator or Stair



# Second Floor | Challenged Space



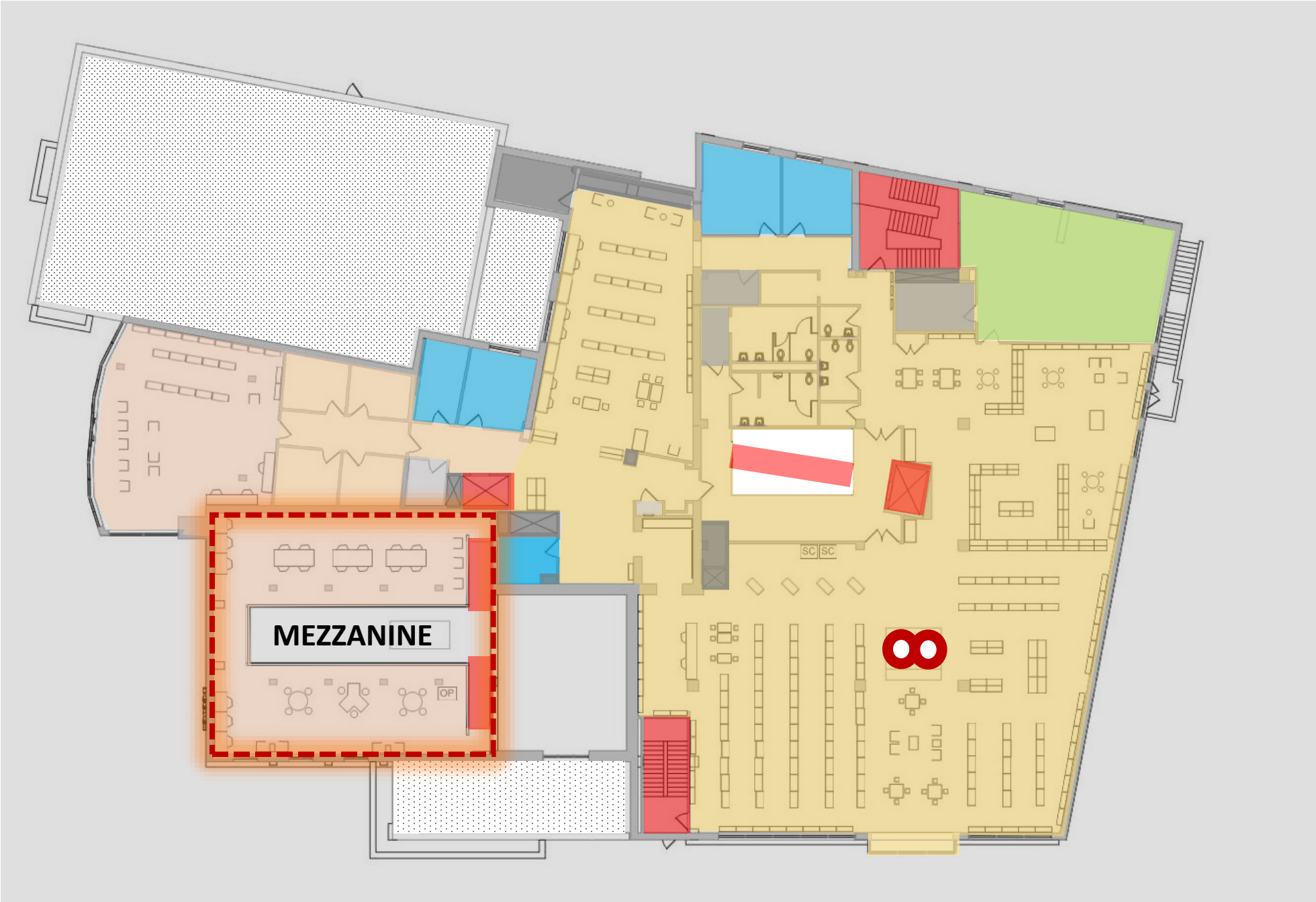
## NOTES

These rooms are heavily used in spite of some notable limitations: primarily the lack of acoustic separation between rooms and adjacent uses.

If the separation could be improved, the adjacent uses of the Mezzanine and the Periodicals Room as well as the seating area in the Middle School zone are good.

- Children's related spaces
- Marketplace
- Adult & Teen related spaces
- Event or Multi-Purpose spaces
- Staff Spaces
- Public Service Point
- Storage spaces
- Equipment spaces
- Zone or area, not a room
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- K=Kitchen RR=Restroom
- Elevator or Stair

# Second Floor | Challenged Space



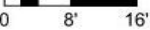
## NOTES

The Mezzanine is a sought after space. It has functional compatibility with the Study Rooms, Middle-School area and study spaces underneath the Mezzanine.

The space does at times suffer from sound transfer from the Reference area on the First Floor.

The variety of seating environments is good but the condition and style are limitations. Newer, semi-enclosed seating and small group study rooms should be considered to supplement the best of the existing.

- Children’s related spaces
- Marketplace
- Adult & Teen related spaces
- Event or Multi-Purpose spaces
- Staff Spaces
- Public Service Point
- Storage spaces
- Equipment spaces
- Zone or area, not a room
- Room
- K=Kitchen RR=Restroom
- Elevator or Stair





# Second Floor | Challenged Space



## NOTES

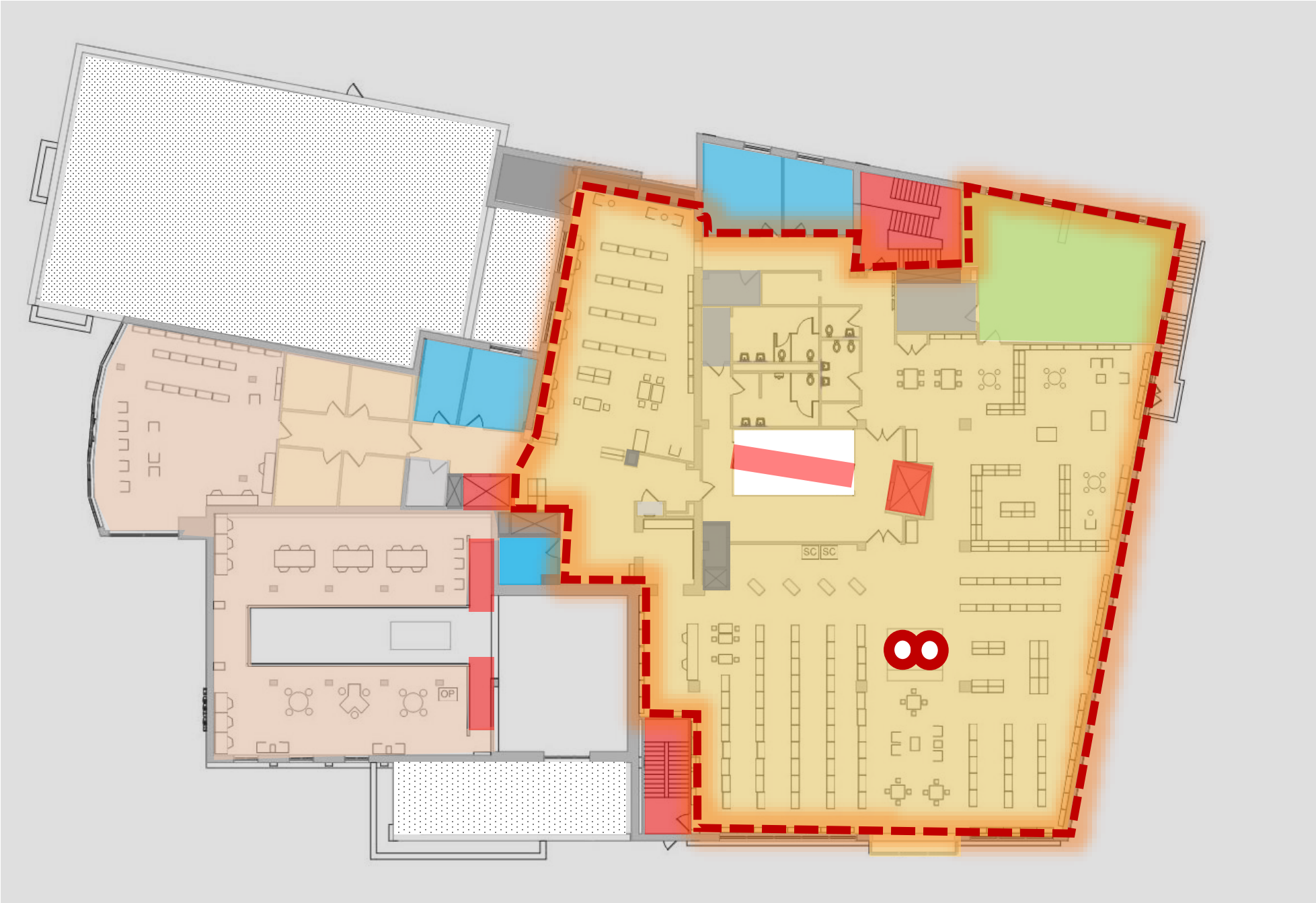
This is one of the nicest spaces in the building. It is sought after for its natural light, open feel, and quiet.

The space does at times suffer from sound transfer from the adjacent study rooms.

It has a compatibility with the uses of the Mezzanine and the Study Rooms.

- Children's related spaces
  - Marketplace
  - Adult & Teen related spaces
  - Event or Multi-Purpose spaces
  - Staff Spaces
  - Public Service Point
  - Storage spaces
  - Equipment spaces
  - Zone or area, not a room
  - Room
  - K=Kitchen RR=Restroom
  - Elevator or Stair
- 0 8' 16'
-

# Second Floor | Overworked Space

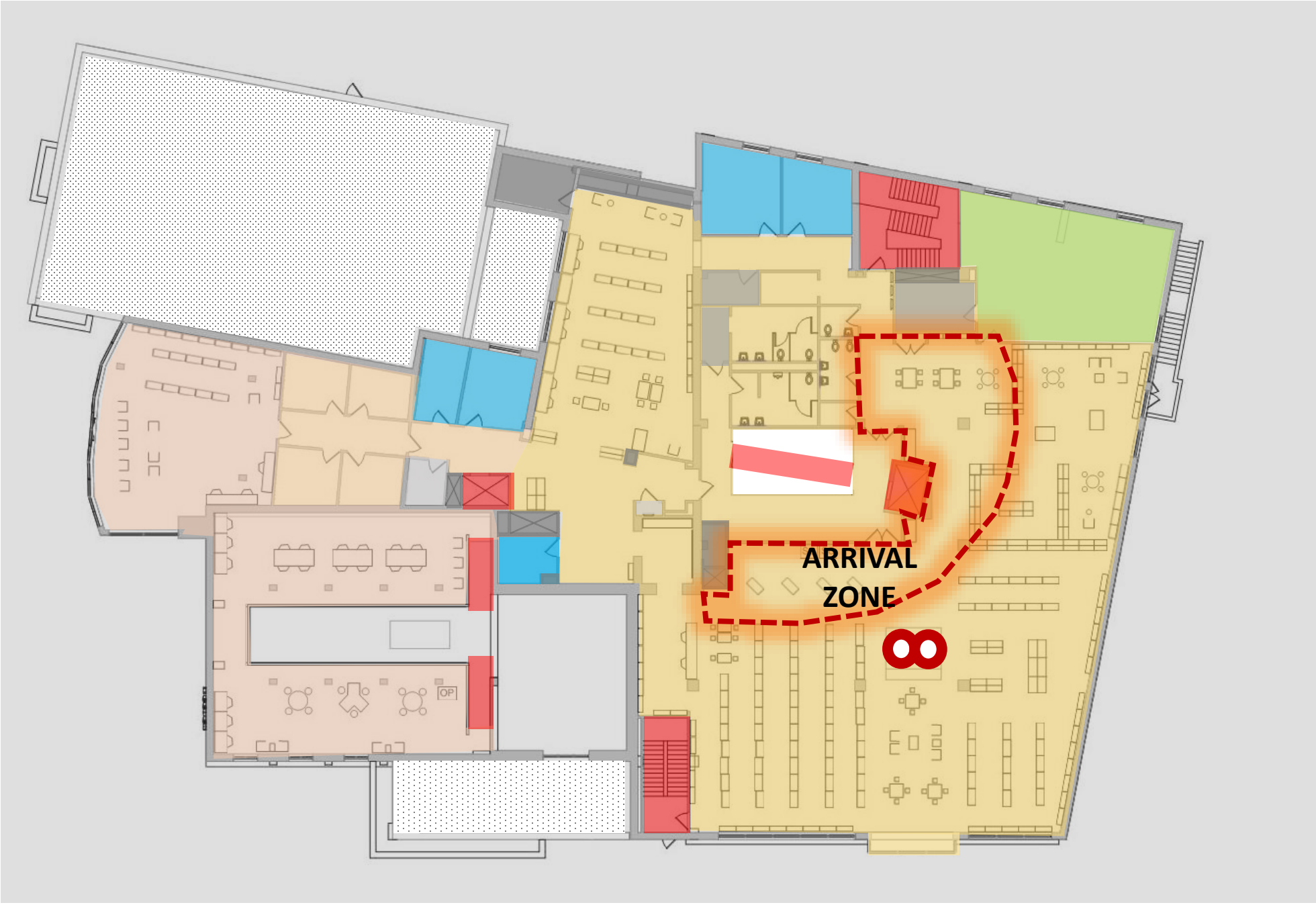


## NOTES

The entire area for Children's Services is overcrowded. While recently redone and improved it remains short of space for interactive, unstructured learning, seating space, and low stimulation spaces. It is immediately crowded and movement is difficult from the entry to the service point to the Storytime Room. The seating spaces are so tight that even a few patrons will make the room seem full and discourage other users.

- Children's related spaces
  - Marketplace
  - Adult & Teen related spaces
  - Event or Multi-Purpose spaces
  - Staff Spaces
  - Public Service Point
  - Storage spaces
  - Equipment spaces
  - Zone or area, not a room
  - Room
  - K=Kitchen RR=Restroom
  - Elevator or Stair
- 0 8' 16'
-

# Second Floor | Challenged Space



## NOTES

The arrival zone is crowded and chaotic at program times. Access to the service desk, interactive learning, unstructured learning and storytime areas are often blocked by kids, caregivers, and strollers. This makes browsing the collection, finding one of the limited number of seats, and keeping an eye on kids difficult.

- Children's related spaces
- Marketplace
- Adult & Teen related spaces
- Event or Multi-Purpose spaces
- Staff Spaces
- Public Service Point
- Storage spaces
- Equipment spaces
- Zone or area, not a room
- Room
- K=Kitchen RR=Restroom
- Elevator or Stair

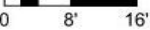
# Second Floor | Challenged Space



## NOTES

The active learning area is compromised by the tight arrangement of seating, interactives, collections, and pathways. As a result, all suffer.

- Children’s related spaces
- Marketplace
- Adult & Teen related spaces
- Event or Multi-Purpose spaces
- Staff Spaces
- Public Service Point
- Storage spaces
- Equipment spaces
- Zone or area, not a room
- Room
- K=Kitchen RR=Restroom
- Elevator or Stair



# Second Floor | Study and Periodicals



Key:  
■ Performing well  
■ Performing poorly

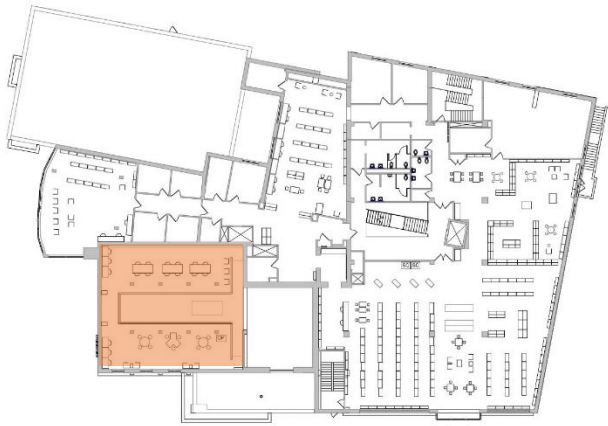
### General Arrangement

- The Periodicals Room is a delightful space and a true destination in the building.
- More might be done with this space if egress could be addressed. The number of exits, their location, and the distance to multiple paths of travel are considerations in increasing the occupant count in this space. An increase in the number of people in the space may also detract from the effectiveness of this area as “the” quiet space in the building.
- The Study Rooms are heavily used in spite of some notable limitations: primarily the lack of acoustic separation between rooms and adjacent uses.
- If the separation could be improved, the adjacent uses of the Mezzanine and the Periodicals Room as well as the seating area in the Middle School zone are good.

### General Shelving

- The shelving in more than is needed for the current periodicals collection.

# Second Floor | Mezzanine



Key:  
■ Performing well  
■ Performing poorly

## General Arrangement

- ❑ The location of this space and the configuration of the mezzanine and proximity of the stair to the Lower Level suggest that this space be redeveloped as something more akin to a gateway to reference and related services and collections.

## Finishes

- ❑ The ceiling is low.

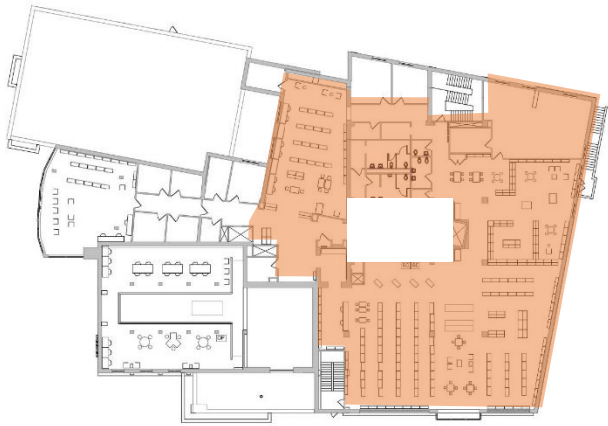
## General Shelving

- ❑ The shelving in general is a mix of very old and fragile wood shelving and decades old steel shelving. The shelving is tall, but the impact of this height is mitigated by the lack of a suspended ceiling, highly reflective white paint on the underside of the First Floor.

## Lighting

- ❑ Light levels on the stair are lower than those in the adjacent spaces. Higher contrast should favor the more difficult to traverse stairs. Better lighting over the stair and higher contrast stair nosings would aid those who have challenges discerning stair edges
- ❑ Lighting under and above the Mezzanine floor should be aligned with uses in these locations.

# Second Floor | Children's Services



Key:  
□ Performing well  
□ Performing poorly

### General Arrangement

- The biggest challenge is the lack of space.
- Within the area available, there are challenges to circulation from arrival points to key destinations (storytime, public service desk, interactive learning).

### General Shelving

- The shelving in multiple areas is too tall, hard to browse and so closely spaced that it is difficult to use. The arrangement makes it difficult to move to key destinations (interactive learning).

# B Bridging the Gap Between Needs and Current Resources

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A Framework for Facility Improvements based on Services



# 4 Facility Improvement Concepts

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Spaces to District Wide Service Needs

# 4a

## The Big Picture: Transform the First Floor and Lower Level

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This addresses many systemic issues identified by the 2022 Community Survey and the Strategic Plan:

- Collections are browsable, inviting, effectively merchandised and arranged in an intuitive way.
- Seating is increased, noisy and quiet areas are separated, seating options are increased, the Lower Level has reasons to go there.
- Finishes are replaced at the Lower Level and selected other locations.
- The Periodicals Room is enhanced and the Project Rooms get better acoustic separation.

# 6a | Recommendation: Transformation

## Lower Level

### NOTES

#### Bring People to the Lower Level

- New, inviting North Stair.
- Maker Space.
- Patron Lounge.
- Seating at Center Stair.
- Public Service Point.
- Seating at Project Rooms.

#### Improve Access

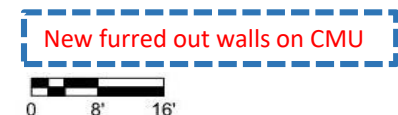
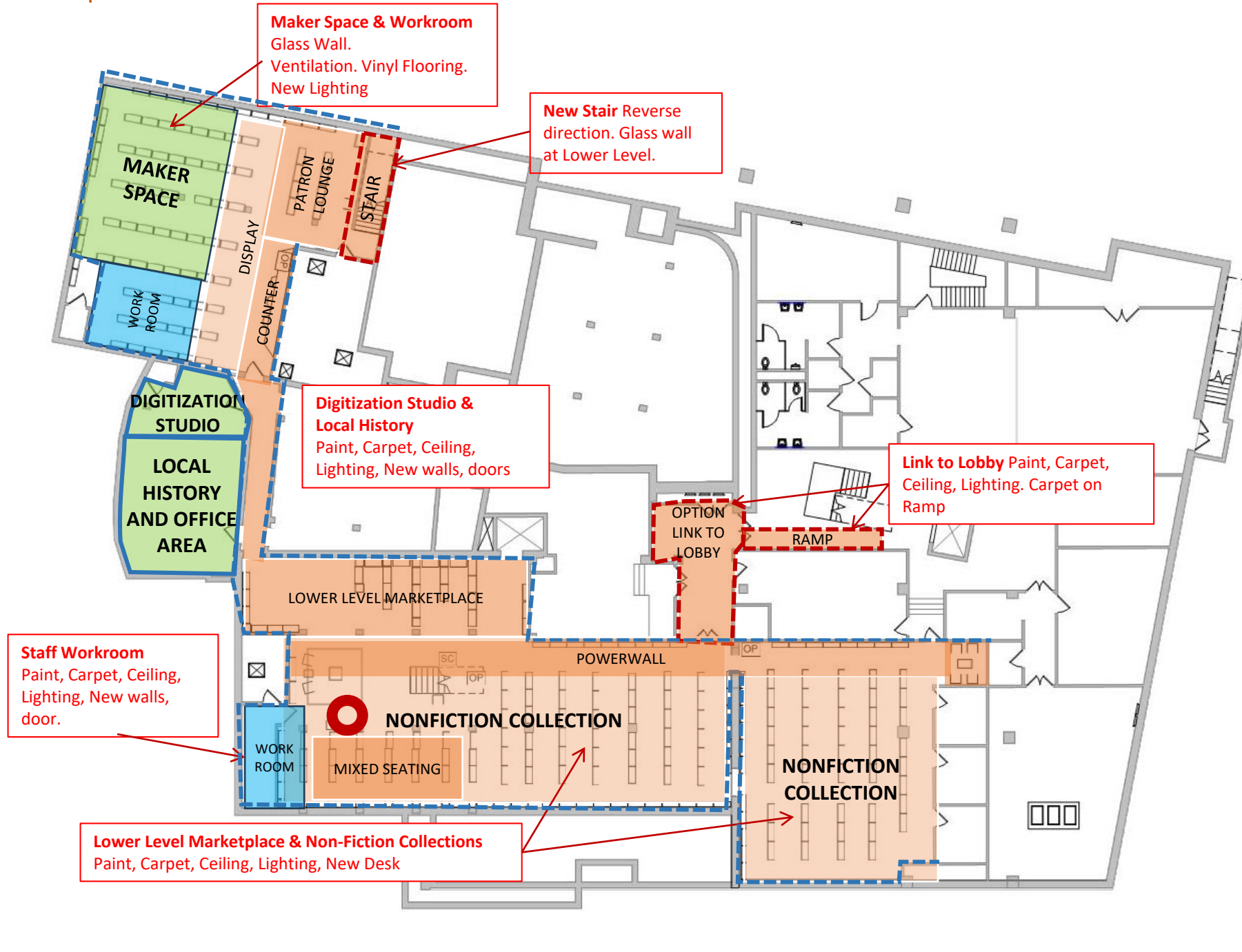
- Mid Building Ramp Connection to Collections.

#### Public Service Point

- No more “being down there alone”.

#### Make it Nice

- New, lower shelving.
- New lighting, new ceiling tile.
- New carpet.
- New seating.
- Fur out walls?



# 6a | Recommendation: Transformation

## 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Demo

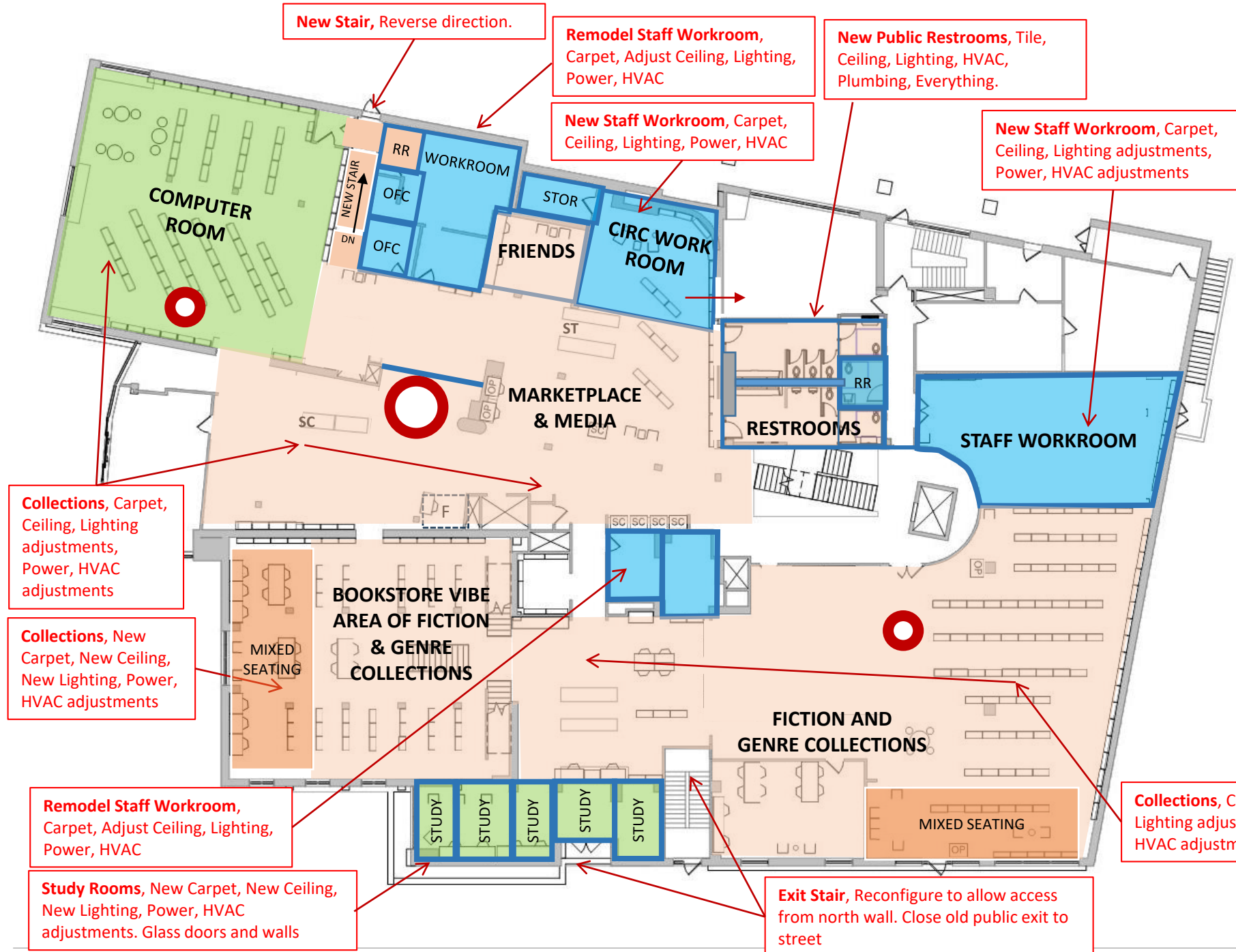
### NOTES

Remove select walls, fixtures, and millwork in anticipation of relocations.



# 6a | Recommendation: Transformation

## 1<sup>st</sup> Floor



### NOTES

#### Simplify Organization

- Books to the south.
- Specialty spaces to the northwest.
- Staff to the north.
- **Central spine from entry to stair gives direct access to many "neighborhoods"**
- Leverages existing building forms.
- Creates multiple environments.

#### Bring People to the Windows

- Great lighting.
- Engaging from the Entry.
- More Study / Project Rooms

#### Public Service Point

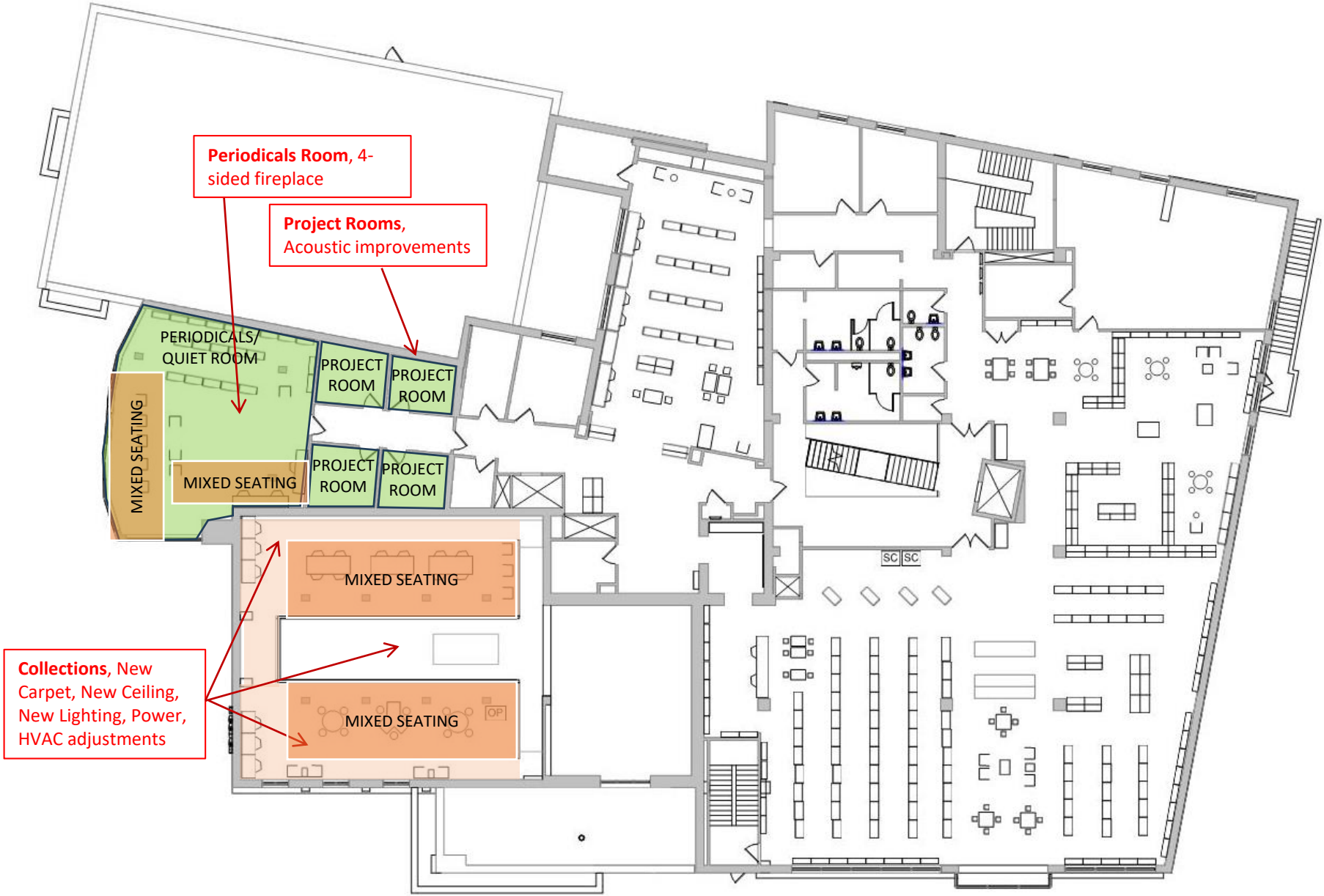
- Visible but central Circulation / Greeter Desk. Easier self-serve.
- Computer Room Service Point
- Fiction / Genre Service Point

#### Make it Nice

New restrooms at Computer Room, Marketplace, and staff zone.

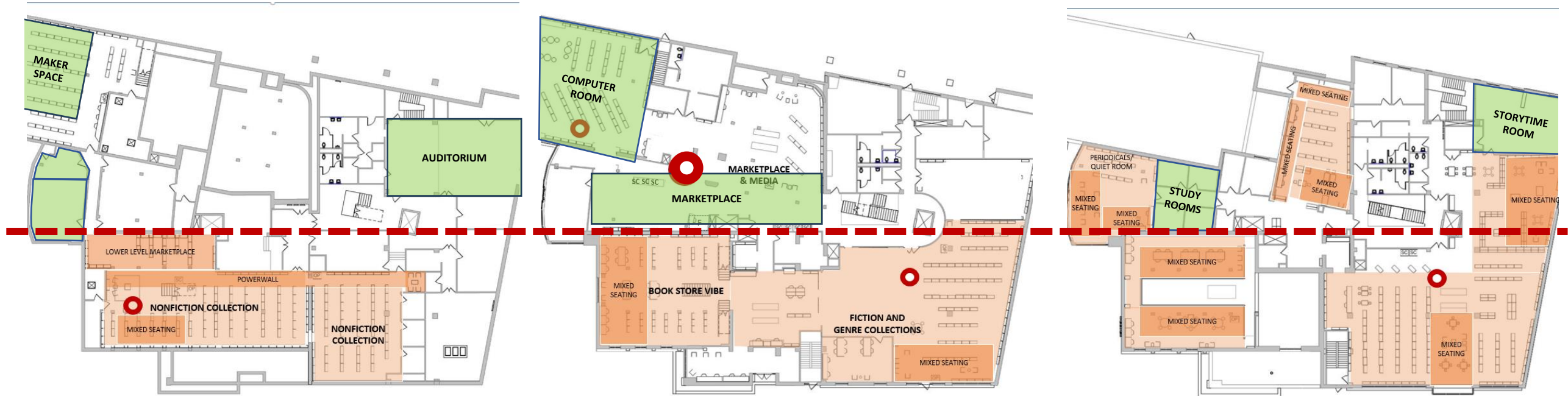


# 6a | Recommendation: Transformation



## 6a | Recommendation: Transformation

➤ Align uses on each floor to simply understanding of the building. Group collections and quiet areas together on the south, active spaces to the north.



### Lower Level

Non-fiction and quiet reading spaces are to the south.

Active destinations spaces are to the north:

- Auditorium
- Local History & Genealogy
- Digitization Studio
- Maker Space

### First Floor

Fiction and quiet reading spaces are to the south. The compartments of the building create a series of linked neighborhoods

Active destinations spaces are to the north:

- Entry/Arrival/Check-out
- Marketplace
- Computer Room

### Second Floor & Mezzanine

An extension of the bookstore feel of the Fiction area is housed on the upper level of the Mezzanine.

Destination spaces are at the end of pathways to the north:

- Storytime Room
- Study / Project Rooms
- Quiet Reading / Periodicals Room

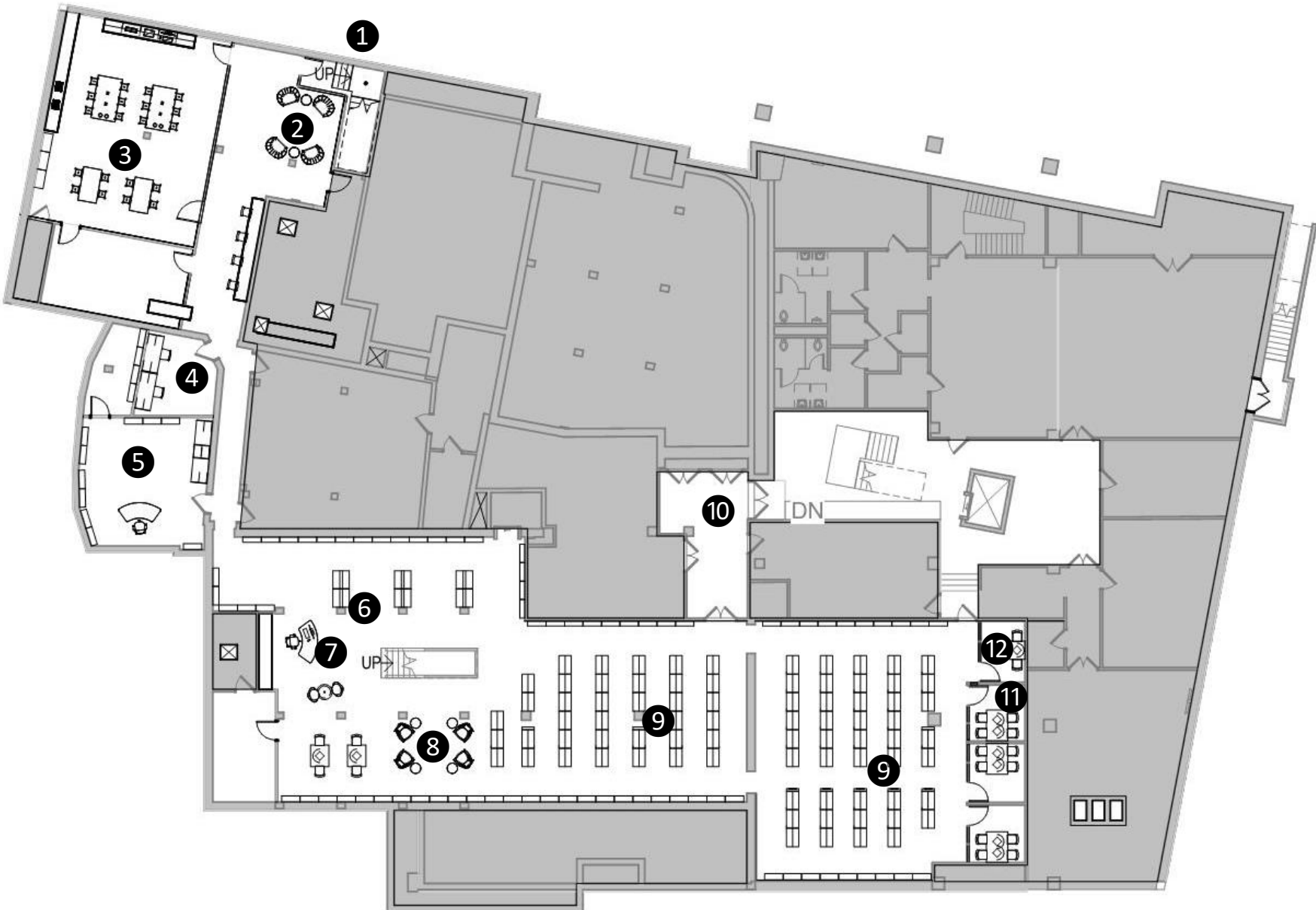
# 6a | Recommendation: Transformation

## Lower Level

### NOTES

Test Fit – Diagrammatic only. Specifics to be determined if concept is selected for continued development.

- 1. Northwest Stair
- 2. Patron Lounge and Vending
- 3. Maker Space
- 4. Digitization Studio
- 5. Local History & Genealogy
- 6. Lower Level Marketplace
- 7. Public Service Point
- 8. Central Seating Area
- 9. Non-Fiction Collections
- 10. Accessible Connection to Auditorium Lobby
- 11. Project Rooms
- 12. Low Sensory Room





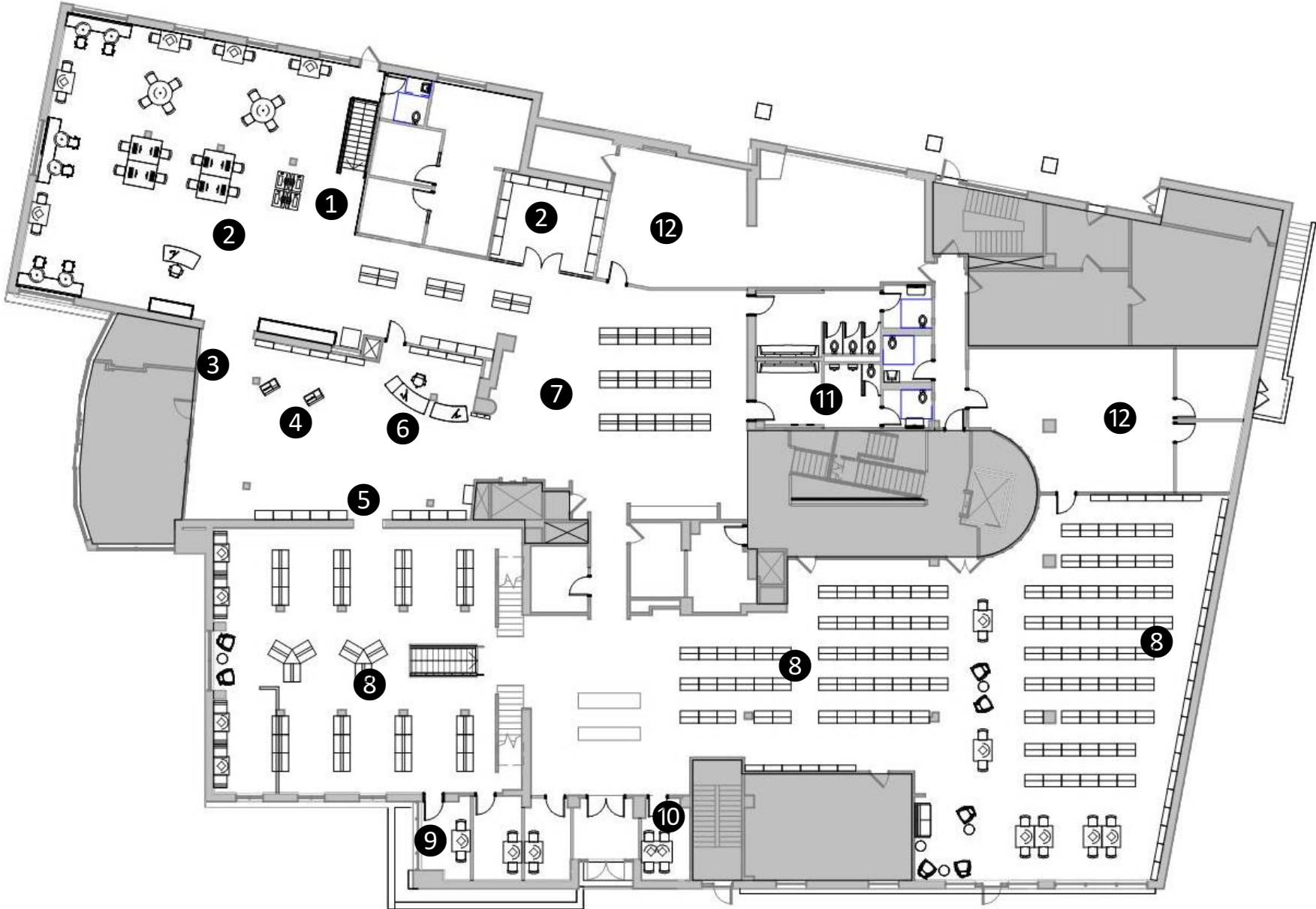
# 6a | Recommendation: Transformation

## 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

### NOTES

Test Fit – Diagrammatic only. Specifics to be determined if concept is selected for continued development.

- 1. Northwest Stair
- 2. Computer Room
- 3. Entry to Computer Room from Lobby
- 4. Lobby, Holds, Self-Check
- 5. Entry to Fiction & Genre Collections
- 6. Public Service Point - Circulation
- 7. Media
- 8. Fiction & Genre Collections
- 9. Project Rooms
- 10. Low Sensory Room
- 11. Renovated Restroom
- 12. Staff Workrooms



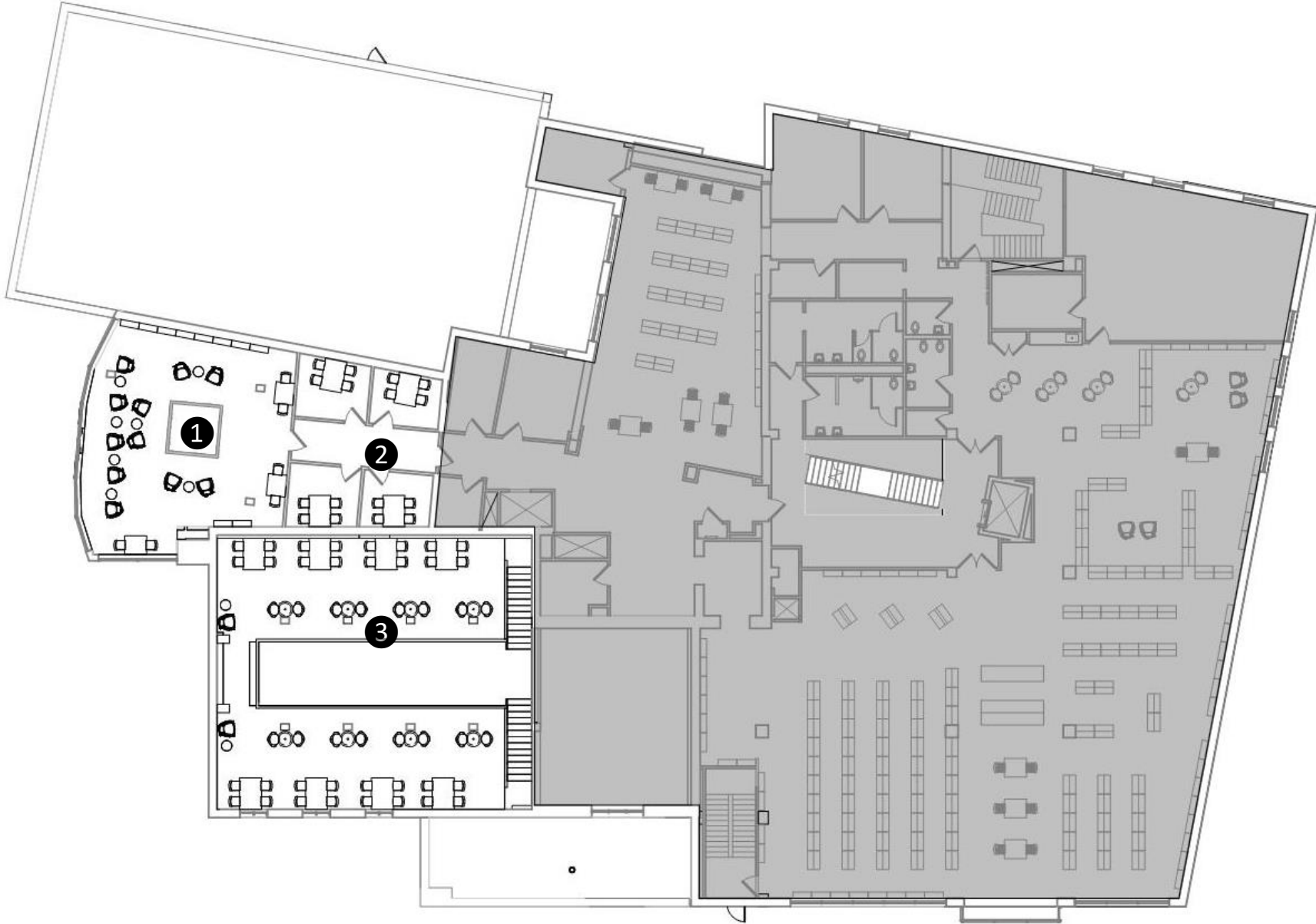
# 6a | Recommendation: Transformation

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

### NOTES

Test Fit – Diagrammatic only.  
Specifics to be determined if  
concept is selected for continued  
development.

- 1. Periodicals Room with fireplace to create multiple quiet seating zones
- 2. Acoustically enhanced Project Rooms
- 3. Multiple seating environments



6a | Recommendation: Transformation: View of Lobby from Entry



6a | Recommendation: Transformation: View of Computer Room & Northwest Stair



6a | Recommendation: Transformation: View of Maker Space & Northwest Stair



# 6a | Recommendation: Transformation: View of Central Stair and Lower Level Seating



6a | Recommendation: Transformation: View of Central Stair and Lower Level Marketplace



# 6a | Recommendation: Transformation

Wilmette Public Library  
Strategic Facility Plan  
Concept Budgets



8/26/24  
v4

Trade Item	Lower Level	LL Link to Lobby	LL Fur-Out Walls	LL Exposed Structure Ceilings in Collection Areas	Main Level	Mezzanine Area - Both Levels	First Floor Study Rooms	Second Floor Project Rooms and Periodicals	Main Floor New Toilet Rooms - Standard Layout
02A Demolition	\$ 36,658	\$ 3,784	\$ 5,390	\$ 21,560	\$ 46,200	\$ 16,830	\$ 7,425	\$ 14,740	\$ 23,100
03A Building Concrete	\$ 20,515	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 22,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,280
04A Masonry	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,310	\$ -	\$ 46,200	\$ -	\$ 24,750	\$ -	\$ 7,920
06A General Trades & Drywall	\$ 256,262	\$ 18,095	\$ 93,170	\$ 10,780	\$ 257,400	\$ 21,038	\$ 18,150	\$ 32,340	\$ 96,910
08A Aluminum Windows / Storefront	\$ 95,040	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 86,900	\$ -	\$ -
09A Painting	\$ 58,636	\$ 2,838	\$ -	\$ 37,730	\$ 94,600	\$ 16,830	\$ 4,950	\$ -	\$ 2,640
09B Acoustic Ceilings	\$ 77,138	\$ 5,676	\$ -	\$ (53,900)	\$ 39,600	\$ 46,283	\$ 7,425	\$ 7,392	\$ 7,260
09C Flooring	\$ 98,868	\$ 7,095	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 169,400	\$ 42,075	\$ 6,435	\$ 18,876	\$ 69,548
14A Elevator	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
21A Fire Protection	\$ 17,705	\$ 1,892	\$ -	\$ 21,560	\$ 30,800	\$ 12,623	\$ 7,920	\$ 4,180	\$ 3,300
22A Plumbing	\$ 30,663	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,780	\$ 30,800	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 96,800
23A HVAC	\$ 84,123	\$ 4,730	\$ -	\$ 53,900	\$ 46,200	\$ 12,623	\$ 29,700	\$ 18,348	\$ 6,600
26A Electrical	\$ 213,840	\$ 11,825	\$ 11,550	\$ 10,780	\$ 231,000	\$ 189,338	\$ 24,750	\$ 41,800	\$ 16,500
Fire Place - Allowance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 55,000	\$ -
A/V Allowance	\$ 20,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,000	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -
Acoustic Panel Allowance	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Signage Allowance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,019,445</b>	<b>\$ 55,935</b>	<b>\$ 112,420</b>	<b>\$ 113,190</b>	<b>\$ 1,054,200</b>	<b>\$ 357,638</b>	<b>\$ 228,405</b>	<b>\$ 202,676</b>	<b>\$ 335,858</b>
Design Contingency (5%)	\$ 50,972	\$ 2,797	\$ 5,621	\$ 5,660	\$ 52,710	\$ 17,882	\$ 11,420	\$ 10,134	\$ 16,793
Construction Contingency (10%)	\$ 101,944	\$ 5,594	\$ 11,242	\$ 11,319	\$ 105,420	\$ 35,764	\$ 22,841	\$ 20,268	\$ 33,586
General Conditions	\$ 30,583	\$ 1,678	\$ 3,373	\$ 3,396	\$ 31,626	\$ 10,729	\$ 6,852	\$ 6,080	\$ 10,076
Supervision	\$ 140,000	\$ -	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 140,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 20,000	\$ -	\$ 80,000
O&P/Insurance (5%)	\$ 76,147	\$ 3,475	\$ 7,633	\$ 7,678	\$ 78,898	\$ 26,163	\$ 14,838	\$ 13,025	\$ 23,816
Asbestos Abatement Allowance	\$ 15,000	\$ 3,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Construction Testing	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Moving Allowance	\$ 40,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 40,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,474,092</b>	<b>\$ 72,978</b>	<b>\$ 160,288</b>	<b>\$ 161,242</b>	<b>\$ 1,502,854</b>	<b>\$ 498,175</b>	<b>\$ 304,356</b>	<b>\$ 252,183</b>	<b>\$ 500,127</b>
Preconstruction Fee (2%)	\$ 29,482	\$ 1,460	\$ 3,206	\$ 3,225	\$ 30,057	\$ 9,964	\$ 6,087	\$ 5,044	\$ 10,003
Design Fee (8%)	\$ 144,327	\$ 5,838	\$ 12,823	\$ 12,899	\$ 151,268	\$ 49,654	\$ 25,509	\$ 23,591	\$ 40,010
Furniture, Fixtures, Equipment Allowance	\$ 330,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 388,000	\$ 122,500	\$ 14,500	\$ 42,700	\$ -
Owner Insurance/Legal, Permits, Etc.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Project Total W/Hard Costs/Fees - HIGH Range</b>	<b>\$ 1,977,901</b>	<b>\$ 80,276</b>	<b>\$ 176,317</b>	<b>\$ 177,367</b>	<b>\$ 2,072,179</b>	<b>\$ 680,293</b>	<b>\$ 350,452</b>	<b>\$ 323,517</b>	<b>\$ 550,140</b>
<b>Project Total W/Hard Costs/Fees - LOW Range</b>	<b>\$ 1,839,448</b>	<b>\$ 74,657</b>	<b>\$ 163,975</b>	<b>\$ 164,951</b>	<b>\$ 1,927,127</b>	<b>\$ 632,672</b>	<b>\$ 325,920</b>	<b>\$ 300,871</b>	<b>\$ 511,630</b>
<b>Grand Total High</b>	<b>\$ 6,388,443</b>								
<b>Grand Total Low</b>	<b>\$ 5,941,252</b>								



## 6a | Recommendation: Transformation – Full Vision

	Component	High Range	Low Range	Timing
1	Lower Level – Basics	\$1,977,901	\$1,839,448	
2	Lower Level – Link to Lobby	\$80,276	\$74,657	F
3	Lower Level – Fur-Out Walls	\$176,317	\$163,975	W/1
4	Lower Level – Exposed Ceilings in Collection Areas	\$177,367	\$164,951	W/1
5	First Floor	\$2,072,179	\$1,927,127	
6	Mezzanine – Both Levels	\$680,293	\$632,672	
7	First Floor – Study Rooms	\$350,452	\$325,920	F
8	Second Floor – Project Rooms & Periodicals	\$323,517	\$300,871	F
9	First Floor – Restrooms	\$550,140	\$511,630	W/5
	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,338,443</b>	<b>\$5,941,252</b>	

*F = Flexible timing. Improvements can be made at any time as a stand-alone project. Financial and patron experience benefits to wrapping this into the adjacent improvements*

*w/ = Needs to occur with line item listed to avoid significant cost premium for access/staging/overhead and reworking of recently completed work.*

## 6a | Recommendation: Transformation – Basics

	Component	High Range	Low Range	Timing
1	Lower Level – Basics	\$1,977,901	\$1,839,448	
2	Lower Level – Link to Lobby			
3	Lower Level – Fur-Out Walls			
4	Lower Level – Exposed Ceilings in Collection Areas			
5	First Floor	\$2,072,179	\$1,927,127	
6	Mezzanine – Both Levels	\$680,293	\$632,672	
7	First Floor – Study Rooms			
8	Second Floor – Project Rooms & Periodicals	\$323,517	\$300,871	F
9	First Floor – Restrooms	\$550,140	\$511,630	W/5
	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,604,030</b>	<b>\$5,211,748</b>	

*F = Flexible timing. Improvements can be made at any time as a stand-alone project. Financial and patron experience benefits to wrapping this into the adjacent improvements*

*w/ = Needs to occur with line item listed to avoid significant cost premium for access/staging/overhead and reworking of recently completed work.*

# 6a | Recommendation: Transformation – First Steps – Lower Level

	Component	High Range	Low Range	Timing
1	Lower Level – Basics	\$1,977,901	\$1,839,448	
2	Lower Level – Link to Lobby			
3	Lower Level – Fur-Out Walls			
4	Lower Level – Exposed Ceilings in Collection Areas			
5	First Floor			
6	Mezzanine – Both Levels			
7	First Floor – Study Rooms			
8	Second Floor – Project Rooms & Periodicals			
9	First Floor – Restrooms			
	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,977,901</b>	<b>\$1,839,448</b>	

## 6a | Recommendation: Transformation – First Steps – First Floor

	Component	High Range	Low Range	Timing
1	Lower Level – Basics			
2	Lower Level – Link to Lobby			
3	Lower Level – Fur-Out Walls			
4	Lower Level – Exposed Ceilings in Collection Areas			
5	First Floor	\$2,072,179	\$1,927,127	
6	Mezzanine – Both Levels	\$680,293	\$632,672	
7	First Floor – Study Rooms			
8	Second Floor – Project Rooms & Periodicals			
9	First Floor – Restrooms	\$550,140	\$511,630	W/5
	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,302,612</b>	<b>\$3,071,429</b>	

*F = Flexible timing. Improvements can be made at any time as a stand-alone project. Financial and patron experience benefits to wrapping this into the adjacent improvements*

*w/ = Needs to occur with line item listed to avoid significant cost premium for access/staging/overhead and reworking of recently completed work.*

## 6a | Recommendation: Transformation – Piece by Piece

	Component	High Range	Low Range	Timing
1	Lower Level – Carpet & Furniture			
?	Lower Level - Lighting			w/1
2	First Floor – Furniture Shifts and some Finishes			
3	First Floor – Relocate Staff			w/3
4	First Floor – Relocated Circ Desk			w/3
5	Lower Level – Relocate Maker Space			w/1
6	Mezzanine – Both Levels			w/3
7	Lower Level – Finishes			w/1
8	First Floor – Study Rooms			w/3
9	Second Floor – Project Rooms			w/3
10	Second Floor – Periodicals Room			w/3
?	First Floor – Restrooms			w/3

### GRAND TOTAL

*F = Flexible timing. Improvements can be made at any time as a stand-alone project. Financial and patron experience benefits to wrapping this into the adjacent improvements*

*w/ = Needs to occur with line item listed to avoid significant cost premium for access/staging/overhead and reworking of recently completed work.*

# 4b

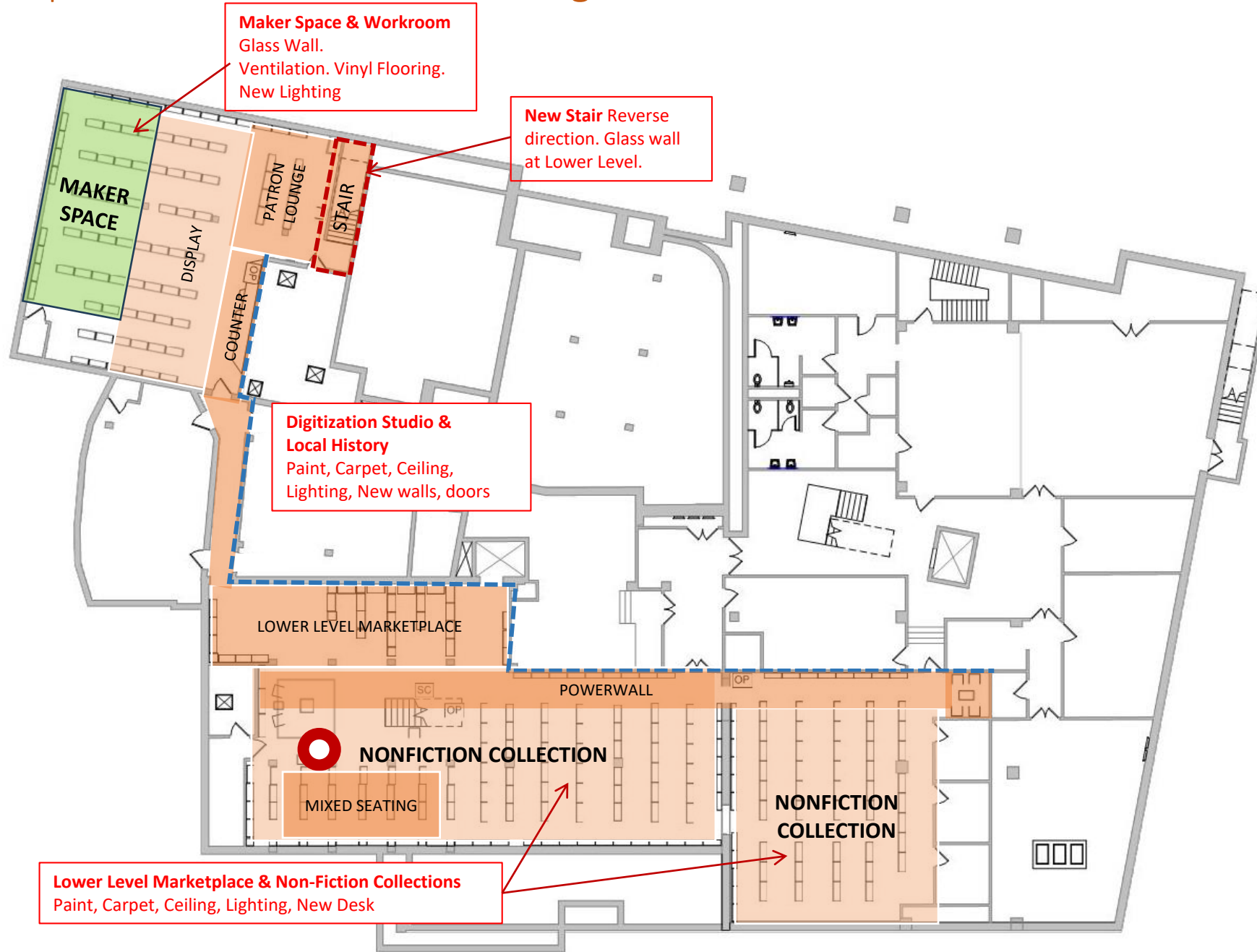
## Rearrange the First Floor and Lower Level

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This addresses some systemic issues identified by the 2022 Community Survey and the Strategic Plan:

- Collections are browsable, inviting, effectively merchandised but not arranged in an intuitive way.
- Seating is increased, noisy and quiet areas are separated, seating options are increased, the Lower Level has reasons to go there.
- Finishes are replaced at the Lower Level and selected other locations.
- The Second Floor Project Rooms get better acoustic separation.

# 6b | Recommendation: Rearrange



## Lower Level

### NOTES

#### Bring People to the Lower Level

- New, inviting North Stair.
- Maker Space.
- Patron Lounge.
- Seating at Center Stair.
- Public Service Point.
- Seating at Project Rooms.

#### Public Service Point

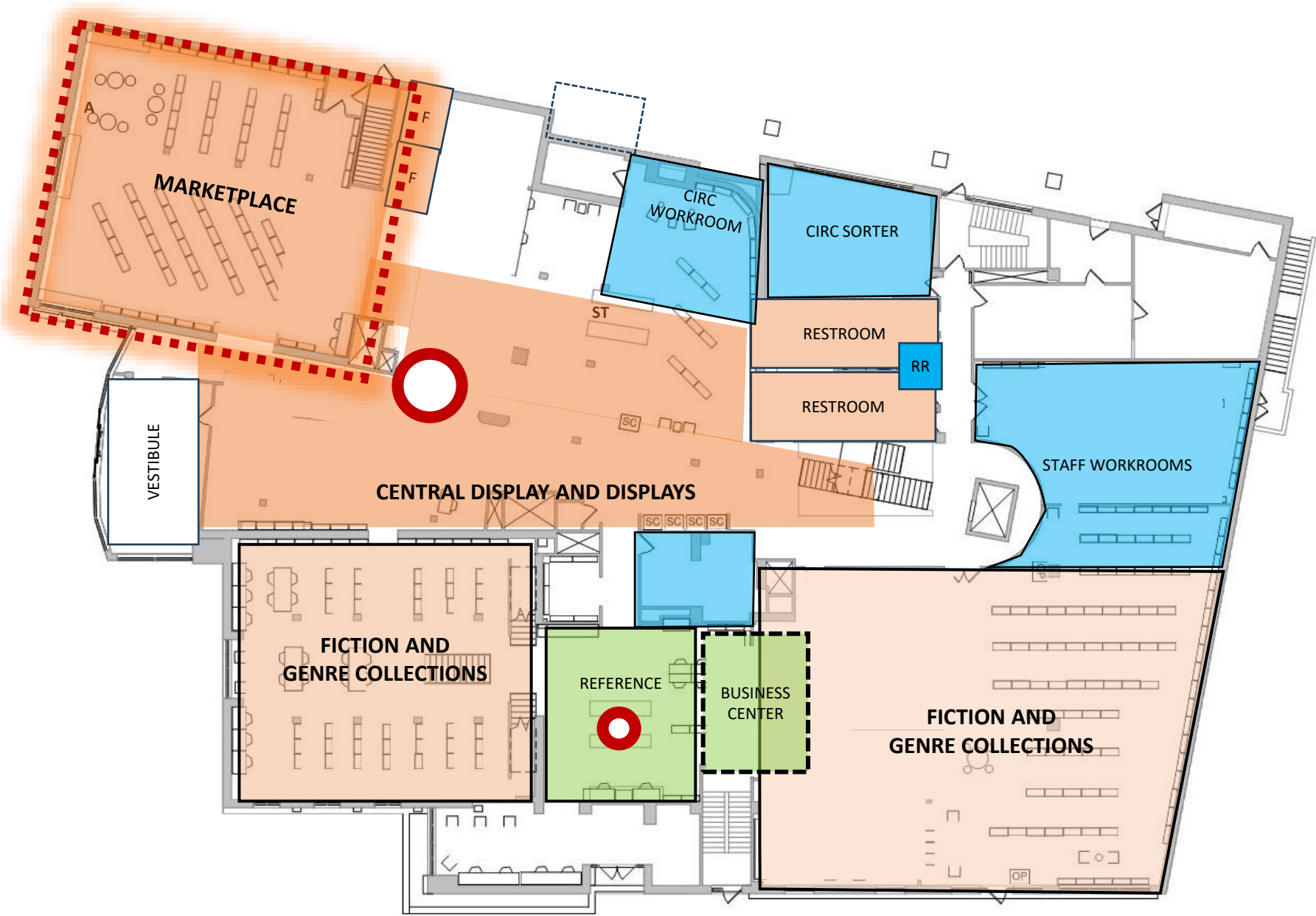
- No more “being down there alone”.

#### Make it Nice

- New, lower shelving.
- New lighting, new ceiling tile.
- New carpet.
- New seating.



6b | Recommendation: Rearrange





# 4C Future Internal Growth: More Space for Children

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# 6c | Recommendation: Future Internal Expansion

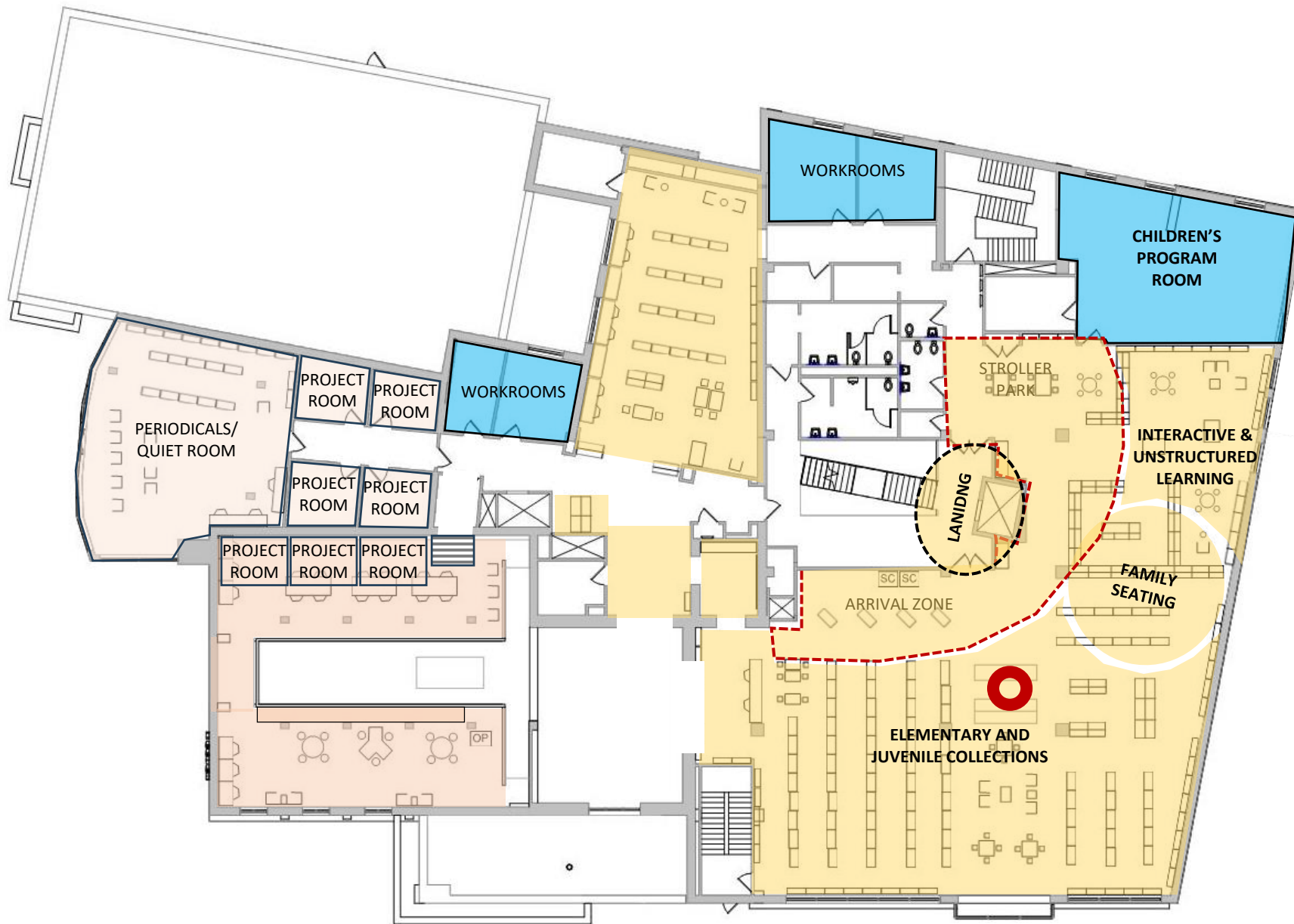
## 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

### NOTES

The Children's Area, though recently remodeled to include representative elements of contemporary services, both traditional and emerging, is packed with collections, interactives, and seating. The result is that the limited number of interactives and seating, insufficient to meet need in and of themselves, are so close to each other, that their effectiveness is limited.

Low sensory space is missing.

Arrival and orientation are challenged.



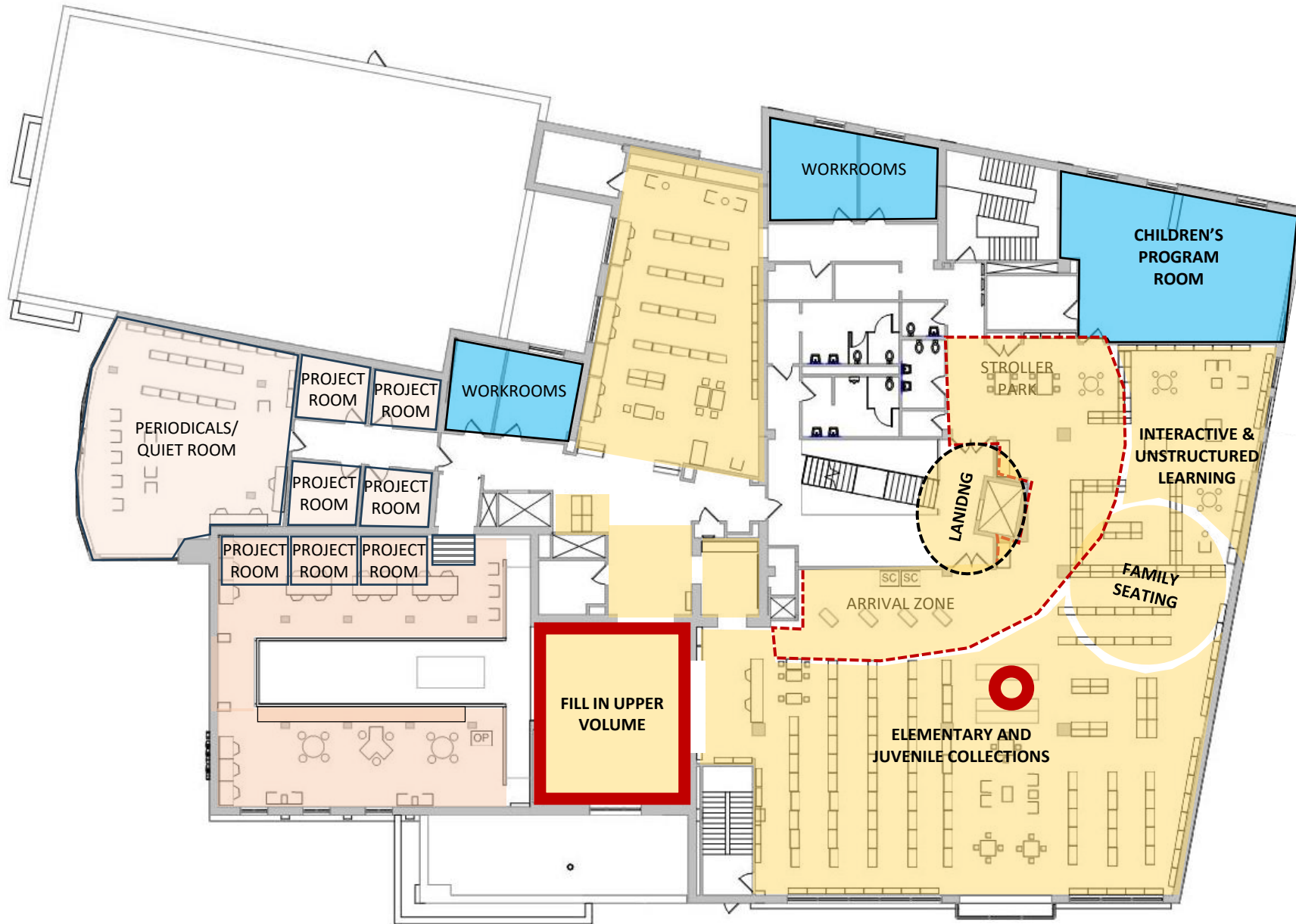
- Children's related spaces
- Marketplace
- Adult & Teen related spaces
- Event or Multi-Purpose spaces
- Staff Spaces
- Public Service Point
- Storage spaces
- Equipment spaces
- Zone or area, not a room
- Room
- K=Kitchen RR=Restroom
- Elevator or Stair

# 6c | Recommendation: Future Internal Expansion

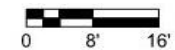
## 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

### NOTES

Although structurally challenging and expensive per square foot. Extending the floor to infill the upper portion of the volume of space currently occupied by the Reference Area could have tremendous impact on the effectiveness of the Children’s Area: Existing seating and interactives can be spread out; additional seating and interactives can be added; family-scaled space can be defined, and a more clearly defined array of services/use patterns can be developed to support multiple learning styles.



- Children’s related spaces
- Marketplace
- Adult & Teen related spaces
- Event or Multi-Purpose spaces
- Staff Spaces
- Public Service Point
- Storage spaces
- Equipment spaces
- Zone or area, not a room
- Room
- K=Kitchen RR=Restroom
- Elevator or Stair



# 6c | Recommendation: Future Internal Expansion

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

### NOTES

As an alternative to creating more project rooms along the south edge of the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, enclosed spaces can be carved out of the Mezzanine. Connections between the Mezzanine and the existing Project Room zone on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor can be improved by the introduction of a stair adjacent to Elevator A



- Children's related spaces
- Marketplace
- Adult & Teen related spaces
- Event or Multi-Purpose spaces
- Staff Spaces
- Public Service Point
- Storage spaces
- Equipment spaces
- Zone or area, not a room
- Room
- K=Kitchen RR=Restroom
- Elevator or Stair

0

8'

16'

↑  
↑