

In conjunction with the City of South Burlington’s plans to create a “City Center,” the Board of Trustees of the South Burlington Community Library was tasked with creating a vision for the development of a new public library. After consultation with a wide range of community members, the Board has identified the following as the stated vision for the library of the future.

“The South Burlington Library will be a cornerstone of the community, encouraging collective and experiential learning for children, youth, and adults by providing a destination for social, cultural, and informational resources in a flexible, collaborative, and comfortable space.”

Community Vision for SB Library April 2015

1. What functions of the public library should SB continue?

- Place for all families to engage in many vibrant activities
- Tutoring and career development resources in Career Development Center that are available to HS students should be available to all library users
- Maintain the library as a center for cultural events--opera, gardening, dance, book clubs--and integrate the community into the library
- Ongoing tutorials on e-books and digital resources
- Expanding hours to include Sundays (self-service when staff not present), bookmobile
- ESL classes, knitting classes, after-school clubs
- Children's programming
- CDs and DVDs--important to balance the collection, not just books
- Outreach programs to seniors--delivery to homebound, site visits
- Maintaining the space for children

2. What to keep for a 21st century library?

- Openness in terms of physical space
- Bookmobile
- Large print books
- Sharing resources with elementary school
- Quiet reading room
- Computers
- Museum passes
- Social area (café)
- Virtual library open 24/7
- Fresh, current selection of books
- Desire to preserve arrangement of combined public and high school library. Value to sharing is that youth are in the library.
- Cooperative relationship has been forged between schools and the library, hope to continue that cooperation
- Parents, children, retirees are all mixing together in this space, SBCL is the only community center that we have right now
- What do HS students think of separate library?
- Later hours and a café, both would appeal to students
- Students may not use a new library as much but a café would be popular
- Maintaining a secure school is a challenge when part of it is open to any and to all
- Unknown unknowns
- Are kids a deterrent to other patrons because this is a hangout place? JM--Sometimes it's a crying baby, sometimes it's students--we all have the opportunity to disrupt

3. What new experiences will the people of SB expect in a new library?

- Functional rooms that are multi-purpose, intergenerational, that can be used to make (art, music) not just consume (read, listen). Not used one day a week, but constantly in use with a wide range of activities
- Enhancing educational and experiential opportunities, integrating with parks and rec--graying population trending nationally and in VT. Learning, nutrition, exercise, reading all enhance quality of life and improve health.
- Health and wellness, e.g. yoga, destressing, has become really big in recreation programming.
- Athenaeum at R.I.T. in Rochester, NY for seniors, people who were experts in their fields gave classes--lifelong learning
- Open mic for teens, music battle of the bands, poetry slam, also EEE (Elder Education Enrichment) could give programs there. Sunday concerts could be geared toward teens
- Sound buffering should be part of design as well as flexibility of space
- Kitchen facility could be used to have community dinners
- Programs for adults in the evening w/childcare for parents who need it in order to attend. Also, a café and more cozy reading nooks in children's room.
- Lots of programming, lots of flexibility with a space you can change. Also, how to connect with people who are outside of, or can't come to, the library--Skype? TV?
- Showcasing technology, such as robotics, collaborating with businesses, UVM
- Supporting entrepreneurs in commerce, labor, agriculture and giving them space to share ideas. Also forming interest groups so people can engage with others in their community (wine and jazz on Friday nights done at a FL library)
- Multilingual classes, storytimes, conversation groups
- A library with things to do, not just a place to come and go. The library as a destination.
- Teen events to draw kids from other schools in addition to SBHS--e.g. Vermont Commons, Rice.
- Inviting space that draws people in, such as the Museum of Modern Art in NYC. Garden of Eden.
- Greenhouse education/gardening/cooking
- Outdoor space--veranda, gazebo, sandbox, chairs and tables
- More sensory-based activities for children in kids' room, breast-feeding pod for nursing mothers
- Quiet space for mothers and children to read, separate place for kids to play
- In City Center there's a commitment to open space--it's therapeutic, it adds value--with the right site selection for the library, outdoor space could be integrated into plan
- Expandable and contractible spaces are paramount--lots of new libraries with great ideas--let's steal them
- Materials for people with disabilities (mailing audio books to homebound as does the state)
- Vermont has a growing refugee community, reach out to them and others who are not white and not Vermonters--think about what they need
- Web conferencing, rentable space. Manchester has touch and go spaces that you can rent and lock up if you need to
- Birthday parties, biannual library lock-ins as in Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library (DCF 2015 winner)

4. Imagine showing your best friend, lover or mother around the library. What do you see?

Hear? Notice? What is wonderful and needs to be saved? What could be improved?

- Likes children's space--parking lot is very tight when there are multiple events taking place at same time
- Nice space, open, bright--crowded, a lot happening, can feel overwhelming
- More natural light would be better
- Different levels are nice
- Timeless quality of libraries--hope that remains in new space
- Tonight's event an example of enjoyable way to bring people together
- A bit confusing to navigate
- Diversity of space and stimuli to reflect diversity of community
- Wheelchair access and automatic doors, quick accessibility (as opposed to original library entrance that was through HS main doors)
- Children's room is great, colorful
- Topical displays are nice
- Likes reading room w/large print books
- Children's room needs to be bigger, to explode, yet retain whimsy and spirit
- More meeting space, keep the books
- Loves adult reading room
- Likes displays that make it easy to pick out a great book
- Noticed plants for the first time
- Compliments given to friendly and helpful staff, also would like Sunday hours
- Books in children's room could be displayed differently for easier finding, need card catalogs in children's room
- Likes smiles from staff at circ desk that greet you upon arrival
- Convenience of outdoor book drop, would like books and CDs that could be taken out on the honor system when library is closed
- Loves sense of awe when you're surrounded by books
- Appreciates helpful staff and CD collection
- Reference--why is there so much? JM--public transitioning to online sources, CB--students need books to learn how to do research
- Likes that multiple copy book sets are available for checkout
- A book free entrance that does not intimidate non-readers, because people who use the library are not all readers
- Need to think about those who can't get to library for various reasons--handicapped, lack of transportation, low-income--and get them involved.
- Where does the library belong--city center or a more open space?
- What's the plan for financing and the time frame? KD explained TIF projects and how a new library would be funded.

Compiled by Barbara Ziemann 4/28/2015