

Vision 2020

Creating a Difference-Making Space Pushing Our Walls Ever Further Out

Vision 2020 – Mission

In 2013 a strategic planning process was initiated to identify the future of the Library

Make a positive difference in the lives of everyone in Kingston Frontenac....

- Retain the values and strengths of today
- Envision the ways in which we will be different tomorrow
- Plan how to successfully navigate those changes
- Embrace the changes and adopt new approaches to serving the community.

Strategic Goals

- Unique, Impactful Services....
- Difference Making Spaces...to push our walls ever further out... to where the residents are.
- Community Focused Relationships...for people to pursue their aspirations.
- Growing 21stCentury Capabilities...to thrive in the 21st Century information world

Architectural Objectives

- Connect residents with the libraries collections
- Invite the public into the building
- Address the different ways people use the space
- Leverage technology for effective and efficient delivery of services
- Allow for flexible zoning
- Provide access to unique collections relative to the community
- Provide an intergenerational space for children with flexible programming opportunities and a unique space for teens
- Intuitive wayfinding
- Provide amenity spaces such as vending, a café or retail space for “Friends of the Library”
- Improve Staff spaces and material handling processes with a workflow that is discreet from the public

Precedents

Halifax Central Library

“As libraries struggle to stay relevant against the instant allure of e-readers, Google, Netflix, and online music streaming, Halifax is taking a big step in making them cool again” —This City Life

“A public library is probably as important as a church today or even more important than a city hall because it’s the people building and everyone can come here” —This City Life

“Halifax Turns its Library into the City’s Living Room” —This City Life

“People should see this building not only as a library but as a free public space in the heart of the city.” —Chris Hardie

Kitchener Central Library

“Clearly, there’s no need to shush. As I walk through the front doors of the main public library in Kitchener, Ont., I see movement and life all around”—Globe and Mail

“This feels like a place of activity and community. With books”—Globe and Mail

Existing Floor Plans

Legend

1. Stairs and Ramp to the main entrance

Not to current building code nor City of Kingston’s Facility Accessibility Design Standards (FADS). Crowds public sidewalk and street.

2. Entrance.

After 40 years of renovations and adaptation, existing entry does not function as it could (celebrated, light, directional).

3. Elevator Lobby

Remote from other core functions – adds to the challenge of securing the central core so it can function as a modern library.

4. Central Communication Stair

When designed provided a path to the second floor with an element of theatre.

5. Borrowing Services

Borrowers’ services have changed.

6. Washrooms

Do not conform to current Ontario Building Code or City of Kingston FADS. Remote from the central core which creates security challenges.

7. Fiction

High shelving creates accessibility and security challenges.

8. Non Fiction

High shelving creates accessibility and security challenges.

9. Periodical Reading Area

Designed as an inward looking space but today should be more engaging and outward looking.

10. Local History

Located in a noisy environment rather than quieter work space – not easily accessible due to ramp and stair that currently do not meet current Ontario Building Code and City of Kingston FADS.

11. Gallery (Foyer)

Located in exit path of travel and does not meet current Ontario Building Code.

12. Community Meeting Rooms

Scattered which makes it difficult to contain them within the secure area and located adjacent to washrooms / stairs / elevator.

13. Children's Area

Location on the 2nd floor makes it challenging for young families to access.

14. Teen area

Integrated with children's area is not inviting for teens, who prefer a separate space.

Building Systems

Upgrade older original building systems with new technology to minimize service disruptions and maximize dollar savings while providing a fresher space for visitors.

The project is targeted to be LEED Silver.

Vision 2020 – Floor Plans

Legend

1. Stairs to Main Entrance

Turned away from traffic and integrated with the new sheltered parkette. The new configuration allows stairs to meet the current Ontario Building Code.

2. Existing Arcade Ramp

Reconfigured to fit entirely within the covered arcade and re-establishes the bicycle parking as a more visible and secure area.

3. Existing Ramp from West

Reconfigured to meet the City of Kingston's FADS.

4. Entrance

An extended arcade leads to the new Marketplace and makes a clearer visual connection to the City. Immediately, upon walking into the building, patrons see a busy, dynamic space with children's programming, a makerspace, exciting displays. This new feature signals that Kingston is where history and innovation thrive.

5. Borrowers Services

Immediately adjacent to entrance for effective and efficient delivery of library services.

6. Stair to Level 2

Encourages gathering places and re-imagines the stair as a place of theatre. Allows for a secure configuration of the first and second floor for extended hours use of the meeting rooms on Level 2.

7. Washrooms

Centralized, visible and secure. Conforms to current Ontario Building Code. Accessible from the entrance and stacked with Level 2 washrooms to ease wayfinding and for construction economy.

8.Children's Area

Creates a space of animation and activity that is visible to the public. Young families can access the space easily as soon as they enter the building without having to use an elevator.

9. Fiction

Lower shelving and attractive seating showcase a space brightened by natural light ideal for exploring the collection and escaping into a book.

10. Maker Space.

An innovative space promoting access to learning, discovery and new technologies.

11. Marketplace

The new "Window to the City" – It is a place to see and be seen. It is a meeting place where ideas are exchanged and shared, new and exciting materials are showcased and events happen. It will be a vital component of Kingston's civic space.

12. Teens

An exciting place where youth can engage in programming, access a safe space, and engage with library collections.

13. Non-Fiction

Moved to the new quiet zone on Level 2 with a variety of quiet reading and group study areas.

14. Local History and Research

Moved to the 2nd Floor of the Bishop's house in the quiet zone.

15. Meeting Rooms.

All the meeting rooms are located on the 2nd Floor centralized to the secure afterhours zone.

16.Security Zones

Realignment of the stair and consolidation of the core services allows for a secure configuration of the first and second floor for extended hours use of the meeting rooms on Level 2. The Marketplace can also be opened independently from the rest of the collections area allowing for further incremental hours of operation.

3D Images of Option Ea

As a clear response to the Library's Vision 2020, the new landscaping, entrance, and facade creates an accessible approach to the library while balancing and maintaining the rhythm of the heritage aspects of the building.

A clearer visual connection is made to the City with the updated Library Marketplace. The exposed structural beam behind the glass uncovers the hidden history intertwined with the new. These new features signal that Kingston is where history and innovation thrive!

3D Images of Option Eb

A rendered example of the existing facade without the carefully balanced Marketplace window.