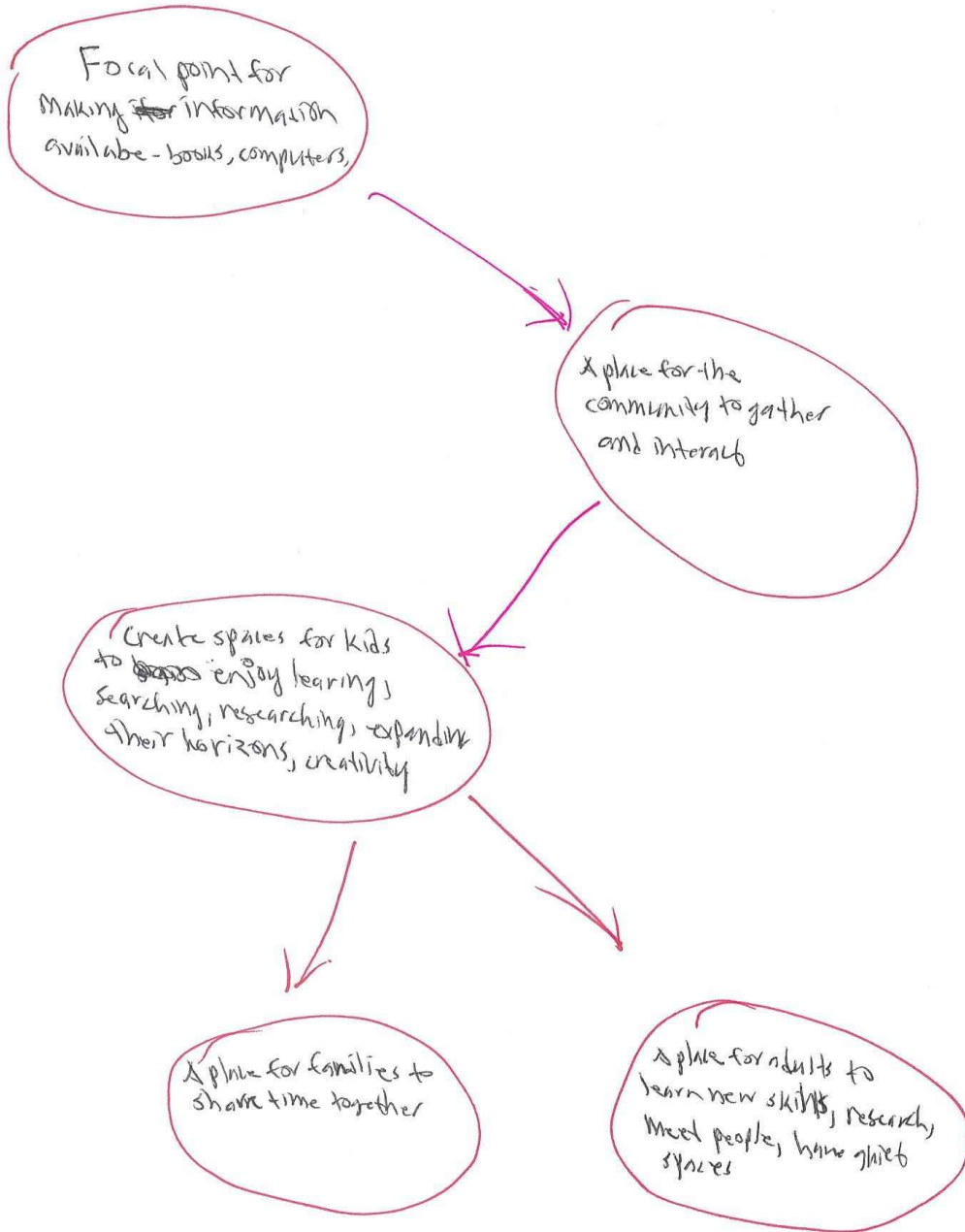
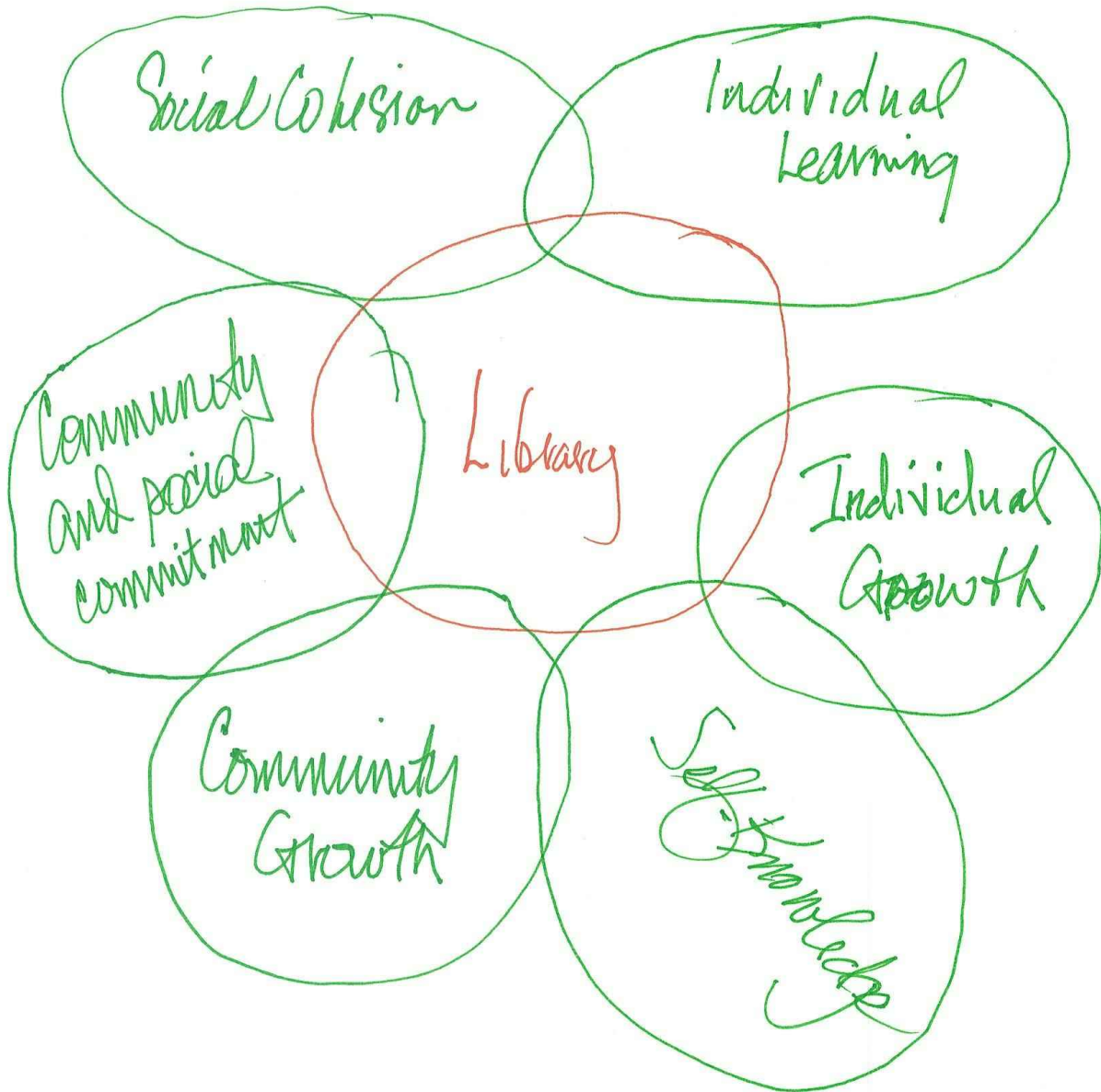
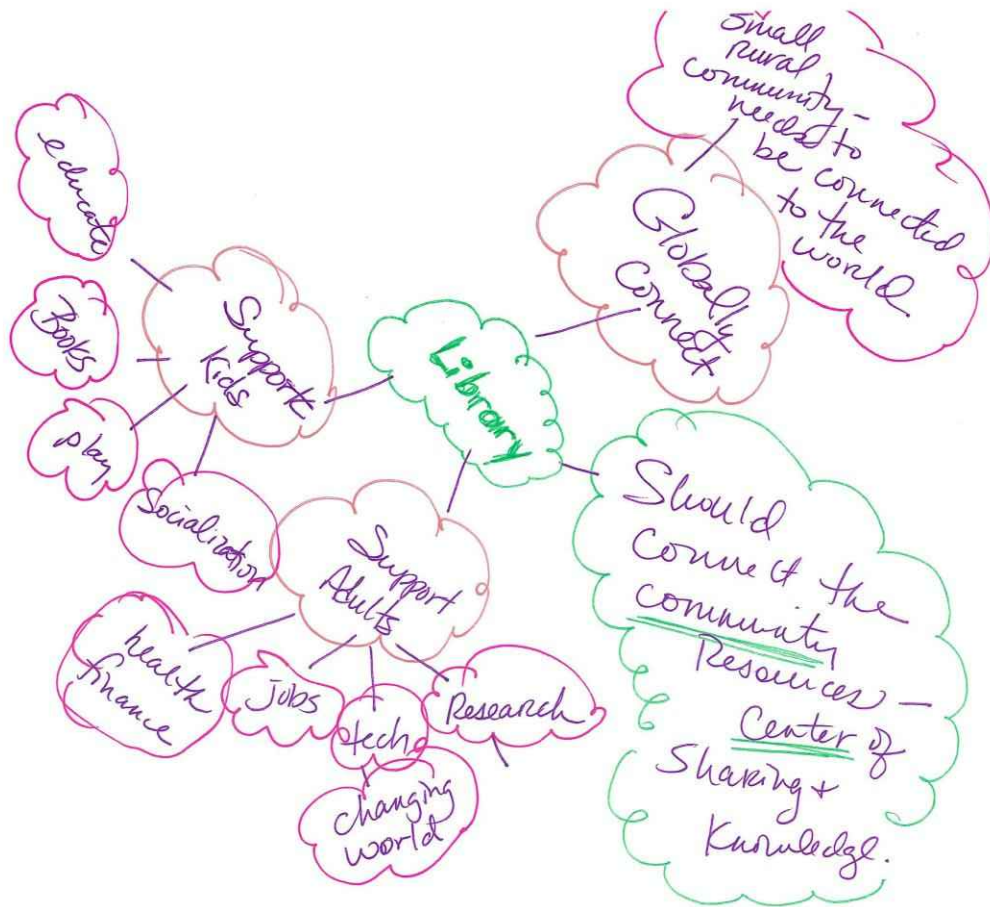
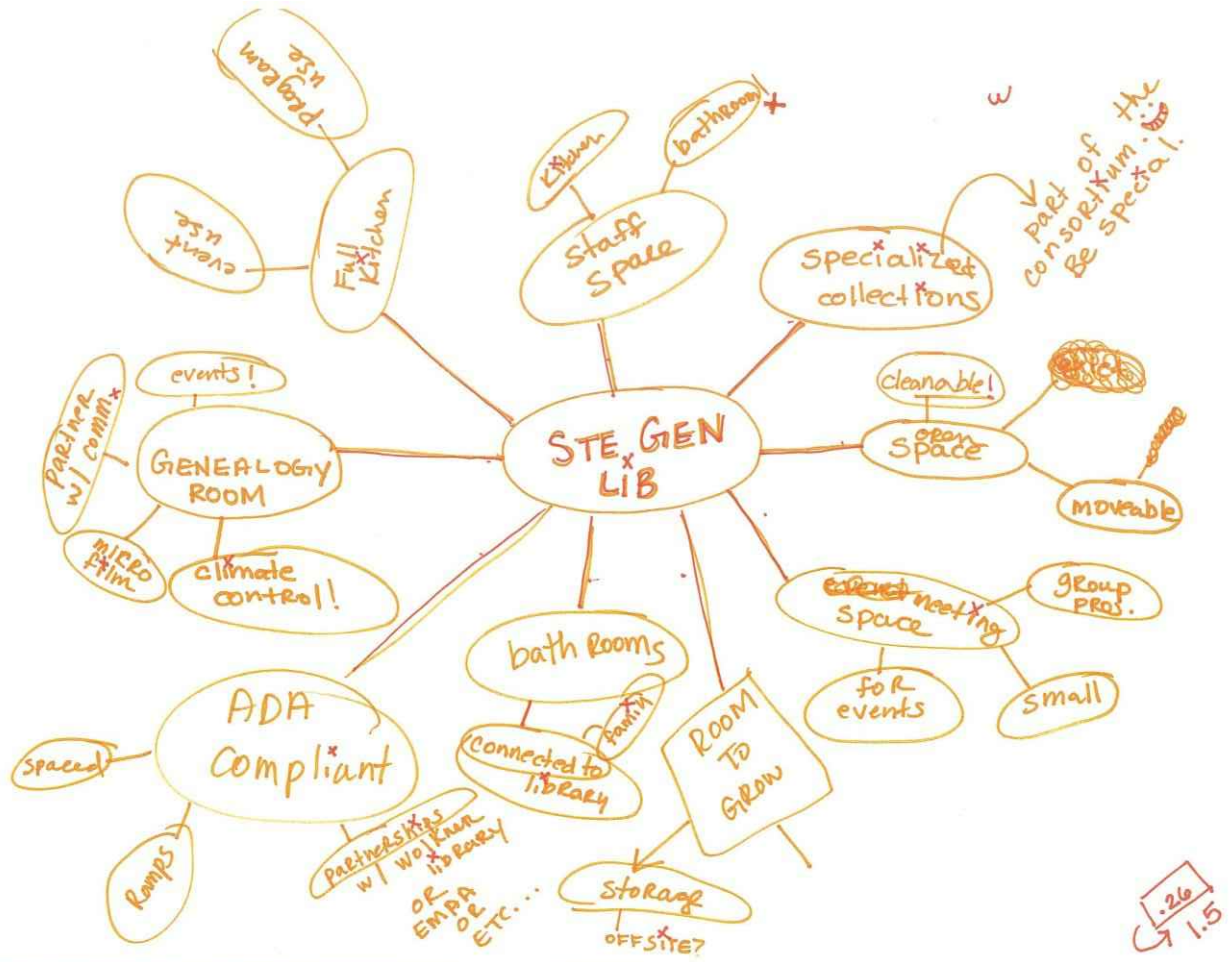


What are the services a library provide



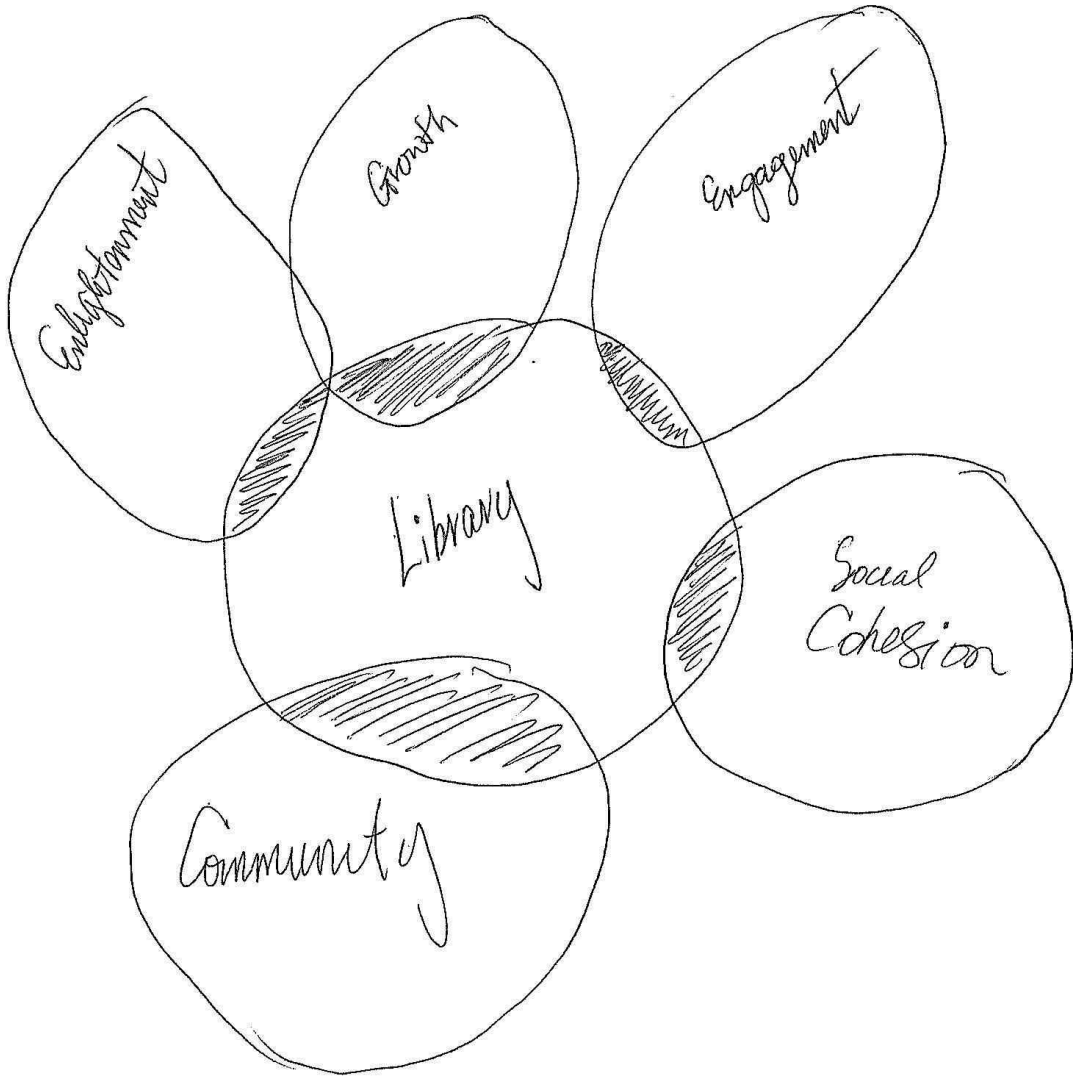








Space



Past
Present
Future

2 big issues: space & location

↓
Downtown-walking access.

Center ideas-

1. Crafting corner
2. Kids spot
3. Quiet spot-away from (computers, meeting rooms)
4. "Hang out" for teens who may not be interested in books, but need a safe place to socialize & hangout w/ friends.
5. Reading space w/ multiple seating options

Nature combined w technology

to create life skills for
the future. Not just for
children but all generations -

Education / ^{im} thinking / crafts →
Seminars (#)

VISUAL SCAN GENERAL NOTES

Community Member Participation: Visual Scan®

Among the most recent trends in libraries are the changing uses of spaces. To build consensus for the Ste. Genevieve Public Library, the strategy is to share the vision of “best practices” and to allow for an exchange of ideas. Aaron Cohen Associates (ACA) believes that this process provides an unbiased review of interior spaces. It is a visual review that helps us measure options to upgrade the facility.

Alexander Cohen, ACA consultant, and Jean Johnson, Library Board Member facilitated a series of focus groups. They engaged in a 1-hr workshops that included members of the library community. During the meetings, the community analyzed the library’s interior layout and exterior flow. They also discussed strategies to improve the library’s entrance and accessibility.

Overall, the Ste. Genevieve Public Library was graded as a “**C plus**” -- This means that a renovation of the library would make a great impact on the community. At minimum, the space plan needs to maximize the library’s square footage; add an additional meeting room and provide a conditioned environment for the friends of the library print collection storage. The low grade signifies that it is time to look at the building footprint holistically: create a space that complements Ste. Genevieve as a neighborhood library.

GENERAL NOTES FROM VISUAL SCANS

- A lot of use of term “we make do with what we have,” “little engine that could” etc. They do their best with existing but it is too small and needs improvement
- Much of the space is tiring, outdated, poor flow, poor HVAC and lighting, etc.
- OH BOY do they NOT want you to weed or cull the books ANYWHERE, EVER 😊

Community Comments Exterior:

- As noted, they are very attached to the charm and look of the area.
- Many did note that the charm outside does not extend to the interior.
- All seem to love the lawn.
- A lot of concerns about parking and pedestrian safety, also ADA compliance

Community Comments Interior:

- universal comments about how dated and ineffective space is.
- Many concerns about computers being too close to desk
- also comments about needing signage.
- A lot of notes about crowding, the word “chaotic” a lot

Children's Area:

- Many comments about programs in one space and books in another; also that it is crowded.
- The Children's area is constantly changing, starting in 2018 the space has grown to provide more activities and purpose for our littlest users.
- Also many comments about needing better teen space.

Reading Room:

- Mainly a concern that it is not suited for presentations and lectures: acoustics, crowding, inflexible furniture, and so on.

VISUAL SCAN DOCUMENTATION

Background of Visual Scan Focus Groups

Visual Scan Analysis: Enhancing Library Services and Space

The team conducted 3 Visual Scan sessions, each lasting between 1 to 2 hrs. These sessions involved participants from 2 to 6 community members/individuals per session. The discussions were often dynamic and interactive, with community members walking up to us as we discussed the library space plan. Opinions were coalescing around immediate ideas for improvements i.e. a New Entrance to the Library and/or Recreation Center.

The information gathered from these sessions has been meticulously analyzed and categorized into two main areas:

1. **Existing Conditions**
2. **Future Needs**

Existing Conditions

- **Physical Appearance and Space:** Assesses the current state of the library's physical space, including its layout, aesthetics, and accessibility.
- **Library Services:** Evaluates the current services offered, including traditional lending services, digital literacy programs, and online tools.

VISUAL SCAN 1

Visual Scan # 1 – June 10, 2024, 2pm

Visual Scan Summary with Library Board President

Current Spaces

- **Parking:** More parking available on the west side. Parking also available on the wings. Access to the library noted. (Grade: C-)
- **Vestibule:** Potential issues with changing to a door, no sidewalk, brick pavers, and wind issues with the patio idea. (Grade: B-)
- **Desk:** High and intimidating, cluttered with a lot of items. Holds are behind the desk, making it difficult for staff visibility. (Grade: C)
- **Parent Seating Area:** Non-keyed door, recommendation to modify the door outside of Storytime. (Grade: C)
- **Children's Library:** Remarkable improvement, considered excellent. (Grade: A)
- **Collections:** Fairly readable, staff actively weeding through it. (Grade: B)

Existing Spaces

- **General Conditions:** Hallways see significant traffic. The gym floor needs to be replaced, suggesting a drop ceiling for improvement. (Grade: C-)
- **Art and Ambiance:** Consider art on the wall, awning, and lights for better ambiance. (Grade: C-)
- **Expanded Amenities:** Suggestion to add hanging chairs, table and chair combo, and a large chess set for the veranda. Adding fans and creating a pathway to the library are also advised. (Grade: C-)
- **Work Area:** Additional computers needed during the summer, currently holds items behind the desk. Recommendations to streamline the workspace for better efficiency. (Grade: C)
- **Potential Developments:** Ideas include using ARPA money, creating a tree by local business, and expanding the space.

This examination highlights areas that need immediate improvement, as well as potential developments to enhance the functionality and aesthetic appeal of the library space.

VISUAL SCAN 2

Visual Scan # 2 – June 10, 2024, 4pm

Visual Scan Summary with Library Community Members

Current Spaces

- Building Access: Entry is through the sidedoor with minimal signage. There are multiple entrances, but the lack of clear directions is noted. (Grade: C)
- Courtyard: Detached from the library, the space is aesthetically pleasing but underutilized for both Library & Community Center use. (Grade: C)
- Vestibule: Community-focused staff positively impact this area. (Grade: B)
- Desk: High desk noted to be intimidating, especially for shorter individuals. The current setup blocks access and visibility, with museum items in the way. Potential for better book display space. (Grade: B)
- Welcome Seating Area: Functional, but specific details are not provided. (Unstated grade)

Existing Spaces

- General Conditions: The library is a secondary part of the community center. The idea of taking over the gym and improving signage from recreation center were discussed. (Grade: C)
- Children's Area: Engaging and fun environment for kids. (Grade: A)
- Veranda: Noted for its stage-like appearance, but improvement is needed for shading. (Grade: A)
- Cozy Seating: Provides a quiet space, reminiscent of an airport setting. Effective for those needing silence. (Grade: A)
- Art Guild Area: Excellent use of space, featuring puzzles and games donations. (Grade: A+)
- Archives: Many community members are unaware of the archives, though efforts to bring in exciting information are acknowledged. (Unstated grade)

This summary highlights strengths and areas for improvement, focusing on better utilization of existing spaces and enhancing community engagement through thoughtful design and functionality.

VISUAL SCAN 3

Visual Scan # 3 – June 11, 2024, 1:30pm

Visual Scan Summary with Library Community Members

Current Spaces

- Outdoor Entrance: Multiple entrance points lead to confusion; gym users different pathways in the center. The idea of better connection was discussed. (Grade: D)
- Porch: High porch with one set of steps, good view but lacks accessibility features. Clear need for better utilization and accessibility. (Grade: B)
- Children’s Area: Overly open and noisy, needs defined boundaries and a distinct identity. The current setup is too open for quiet activities. Previous attempts at outdoor story-time suggest space constraints. (Grade: C-)

Existing Spaces

- Green Space: Limited lacks steps or welcoming spaces connecting it to the building. Raised beds and seating like a college campus could improve usage. (Grade: C)
- Accessibility: Ramp needed on the opposite side; the current setup does not qualify for better accessibility standards. (Grade: C)
- Utilities and Funding: High costs and low tax base impact available funds for improvements. Reliance on community center funding adds complexity. (Grade: C-)
- Library and Community Center Relationship: Library closes when the Community Center does due to lack of independent entrance. Potential for a new entrance to enhance operation hrs. and accessibility. (Grade: B)

Future Needs and Ideas

- New Entrance: Increase curb appeal and make library operations independent of the Community Center. Suggestions for aesthetic improvements were discussed. (Grade: B)
- Children’s Area: Needs brighter colors, a defined theme, and redefined spaces for different age groups (children, teens). A podcasting studio was suggested. (Grade: C-)
- School Visits: Current resources are strained by large groups from schools. Suggestion to manage visits better and possibly expand facilities to handle groups. (Grade: C)
- Community Engagement: Ideas to create an outdoor space like a dog park or porch sitting area to attract more visitors. (Grade: B)
- Overall Space Management: Need for value addition through thoughtful changes that make the space more usable and attractive. (Grade: B)

This summary highlights areas for immediate attention and potential improvements, focusing on making the library more accessible, engaging, and better suited to community needs through practical and aesthetic enhancements.