

# **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT** REPORT SOUTH COUNTY LIBRARY 821176-02 | 05.09.2025





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# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In 2015, voters in Jefferson County approved an increase in the maximum mill levy for the Jefferson County Public Library, prioritizing the establishment of a new library location in southwest Jefferson County. Jefferson County Public Library (JCPL) initiated community engagement to evaluate, recommend, and implement library services for what will become the new library location, currently referred to as the South County Library.

JCPL currently operates 11 library locations, four off-site holds lockers, and a bookmobile in Jefferson County. The proposed new library will be located at 11100 Bradford Rd in Littleton, Colorado, in an existing building previously occupied by a local business. The building, which was purchased in early 2025, will use 40,000 of its 64,000 square feet as the future home of the South County Library. JCPL is still determining how the remaining 24,000 square feet of the existing building will be used. JCPL has committed to investing \$13,049,000 in the construction of the new library to provide an amenity that better serves this growing community.

A new library location is one of the projects in JCPL's 2024 Strategic Plan to expand services to meet the needs of the community. The project vision is to provide greater access to resources, information, and opportunities for every generation. From January through March 2025, JCPL sought community input to gather a comprehensive understanding of their wants and needs to support the future success of this project. Those results are found in the following report.

Common trends and themes found in this report will help inform the program of service. These trends are intended to inform JCPL leadership of the types of library services that the community desires. This feedback, combined with the market analysis and other community inputs, provides data points to help determine which services are planned for the South County Library, the design will then be developed to accommodate these services.

# **KEY THEMES**

- Meaningful Connections & Community: Strong demand for spaces where people can come together to forge meaningful connections, build a sense of community and share knowledge and experiences. This includes offering social events and amenities that provide additional reasons to visit, such as food and playgrounds.
- Dynamic & Community-Rooted Design: Envision a dynamic and forward-thinking library that seamlessly connects with local neighborhoods while incorporating contemporary flair alongside traditional library elements. The design should be innovative and rooted in the community to create an inspiring and engaging space.
- **Nature & Outdoor Integration:** Seek a library that fosters a connection to outdoor spaces by integrating natural elements, views and offering outdoor reading & programming.
- Accessible, Flexible & Inclusive Design: Desire for a design that is accessible, safe, and flexible with dedicated areas for various age groups. Envision a welcoming environment that is inclusive to all, educational and resourceful.

23 STUDENT TOURS PARTICIPANTS 69 ONE-SENTENCE STORY SUBMISSIONS 330 CAPSTONE WORKSHOP ATTENDEES 127 COCOA CONVOS AND SOCIAL HOUR PARTICIPANTS 1,852 TOTAL SURVEY RESPONSES 2,401 TOTAL

**PARTICIPANTS** 

# STUDENT TOURS

To kick-off the community engagement, tours were held with students from Warren Tech, Dakota Ridge and Chatfield High Schools. 23 students participated over two visits on January 29 and February 12, 2025. This included touring the existing building, followed by a Q&A session focused on the Feel, Features, and Flexibility of the new library.

# **ONE-SENTENCE STORY** COMPETITION

Community members were invited to unleash their creativity in a one-sentence story competition posted to the JCPL website from January 17, 2025, through March 3, 2025. A panel from JCPL selected five winners from the 69 patrons who participated.

# SURVEYS

Community surveys were created to gather additional information on future library services. Two surveys were created: one for the general public and another for the teen demographic. The surveys were available in English and Spanish, posted to the JCPL website on January 17, 2025, and open for input until March 3, 2025. Paper copies of the surveys in English and Spanish were also available at the Columbine Library, Bookmobile and collected by library staff.

A separate survey was created to gain input from JCPL staff and 117 surveys were completed.

• Capstone Workshop: Hosted at the new library building and Columbine Library to allow the community to tour the new site and provide feedback on the elements they would like to see in the new South County Library.

To ensure meetings were accessible to all, they were provided on various dates and locations, at different times of day, as well as weekend options, to reach as many community members as possible. Attendees were able to specify if language translation was needed to support their participation.

Approximately 457 community members attended the capstone workshops and community meetings in total. Various questions and break-out stations were utilized to engage the community's feedback on which services and spaces are most important to them, with the goal of providing spaces to meet the community's needs. This input will ultimately contribute to the program of service to be written by JCPL Leadership.

# COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Public community meetings were held on various dates from January 2025 to March 2025. These meetings were held in various formats including:

 Cocoa Convos: In-community activations offering free hot chocolate with participation in a five to ten minute design prioritization activity that was conducted 1-on-1 or with small groups.

• Social Hours: Partnered with local cafes and restaurants to offer free (non-alcoholic) drinks with participation in a five to ten minute design prioritization activity that was conducted 1-on-1 or with small groups.

# **ONE-SENTENCE STORY**

# **PROCESS OVERVIEW**

As part of our community engagement phase, we invited patrons and community members to unleash their creativity in a one-sentence story competition. The question posed was:

"Write a one-sentence story that takes place at JCPL South County Library in the year 2075."

Over the span of two months, we received 69 submissions brimming with imagination and flair. A dedicated panel of JCPL members, along with the Teen Advisory Board meticulously reviewed each entry to crown five stand-out winners.

I enter the beautiful all glass library, newly remodeled with heating and cooling embedded in the glass walls, and see my favorite display of brain wave books then choose one on Mars real estate opportunities and one on Martian language which my electrode cap at home will hook into and transfer the knowledge into my brain as I relax.

- Melinda S.

A little girl named Lila watches in awe as her favorite book comes to life right in front of her eyes, filling the room with shimmering light, 3D holographic adventures and the laughter of friends beside her and across the world, joining in through the library's immersive storytelling network.

- Nikki S.

- The ghost of Liam insists that the old library isn't haunted.
  - Vernon

- In 50 years, I'll be hunched over my walker, shuffling down the stacks, crooked, wrinkled fingers trailing along the trusty spines of our collective stories laid down on paper, as it has been done for centuries, feeling smug about my place in it all. - Jessie W.
- As I step through the solid wood doors with two other little, tiny hands in mine, I'm passing on to my children a half a century journey of stories, travels, truth seeking and adventure that can only begin in a library.

- Katelyn S.





THIRD PLACE WINNER: JESSIE W.



# **COMMUNITY SURVEYS**

# **PROCESS OVERVIEW & DEMOGRAPHICS**

Surveys were posted to the JCPL website on January 17, 2025 and were open for input until March 3, 2025. Paper copies, in both English and Spanish, of the surveys were also available at the Columbine Library and the Bookmobile.

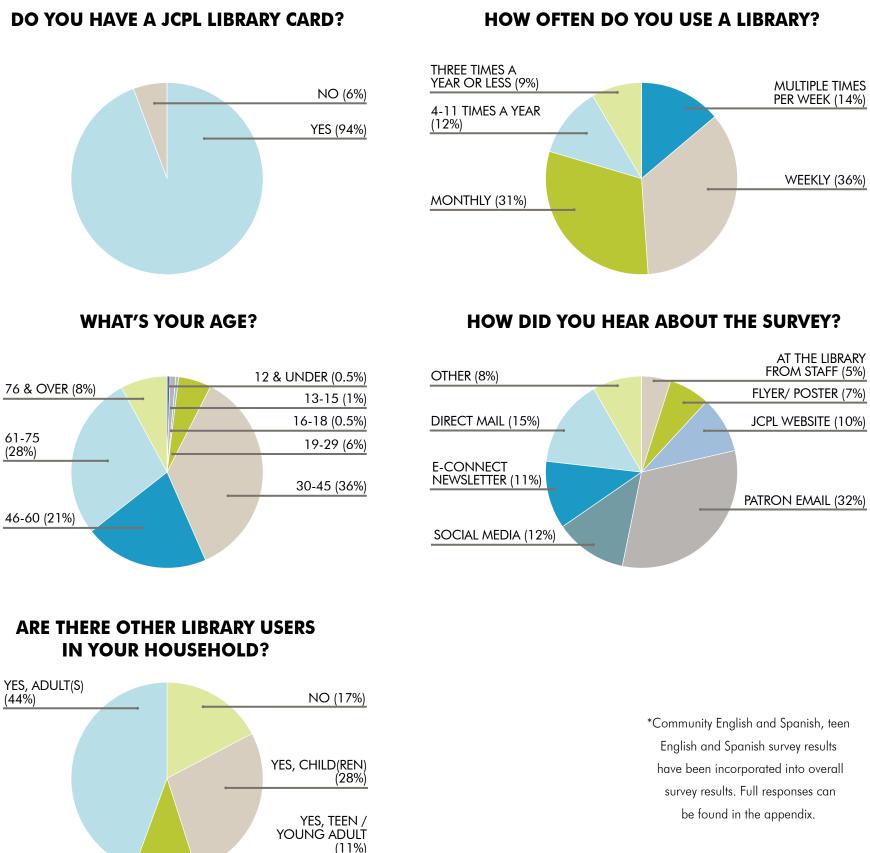
- A total of 1,852 community members completed surveys; one of which was in Spanish. 1,645 of those were general community surveys.
- Of the 969 that input their zip code, 88%, reside in Littleton. The remaining 12% reside in Morrison, Evergreen, Watkins, Foxton, Arvada, or Denver.
- 94% of all participants are library card holders and 81% frequent the library at least once a month.

Surveys contained a variety of short answer and multiple-choice questions. Common themes were seen throughout, including:

- Community gathering spaces are highly desired. Participants are hopeful to engage in neighborhood meetings, social gatherings, and/or community events at the new library.
- The community desires a welcoming, inclusive, and resourceful library that is vibrant, innovative, and fun.
- Participants are looking for natural elements and outdoor spaces.

Results of the surveys saw many commonalities with the community meeting data received. A sampling is noted below:

- Both community meetings and surveys noted the need for **an engaging** • **Children's area** that includes a large story time space, fun play areas, and beneficial educational programs.
- The community assessed that access to books, resources, and educational classes would be vital to the success of the library.
- Both community meetings and surveys noted the importance of ٠ extracurricular space for groups, clubs, and gatherings.
- Additional features mentioned include a café, a makerspace, and ample parking.

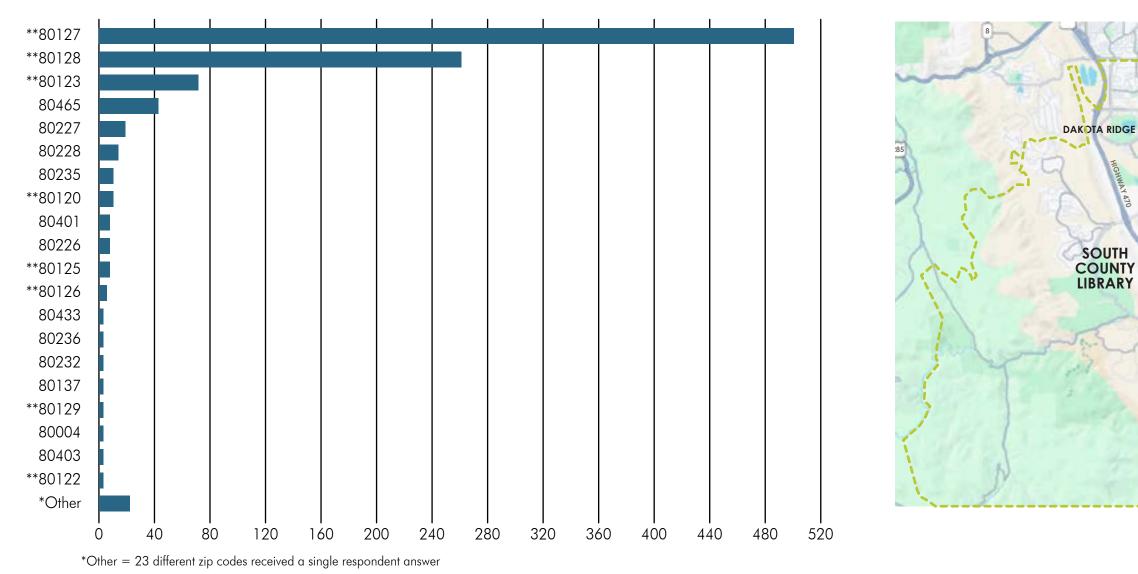


## COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

\*Due to rounding, percentages are approximate and may not total 100%.

# WHAT'S YOUR ZIP CODE?

Zip Code Analysis Participants: 969



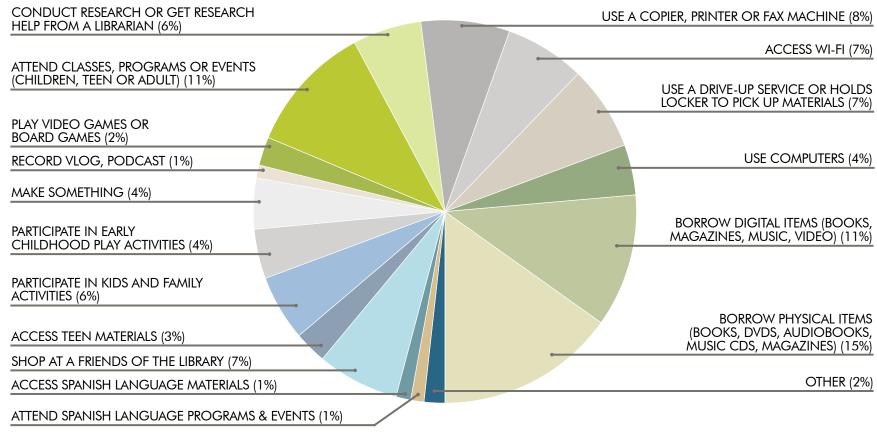
\*\* = Littleton zip codes



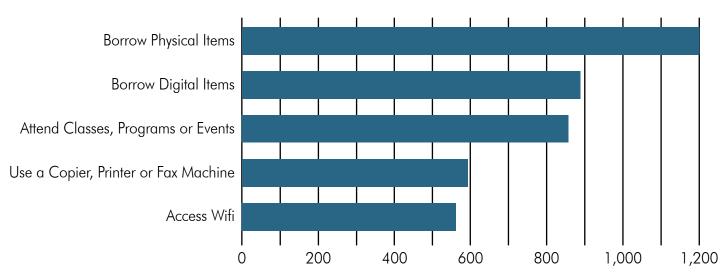
WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING LIBRARY SERVICES, IF ANY, WOULD YOU USE AT THE NEW SOUTH COUNTY LIBRARY? RANK THE TOP FIVE THAT ARE MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU.

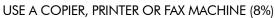
# **TAKEAWAYS:**

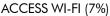
- As to be expected, books and **physical materials** received ٠ the highest response for what people do at the library. 1,204 comments referenced books, reading, book holds, or check-outs. The physical collection still dominates why most people visit the library.
- The second highest usage of the library fell under the borrowed digital items with 892 comments referencing use of the libraries digital books, magazines, music, and videos.
- The third highest usage comes from attending classes, programs, or events across all groups. Big support for inperson learning activities and building community opportunities.
- There is a fairly even distribution of results between many of the services showing that all are used.
- While not in the top 5 results; participation in children's activities, when combined, make up over 10% of the votes and suggest a higher demand for these areas.



### **Top 5 Highest Commented Uses**









WHAT WORD(S) WOULD YOU USE TO DESCRIBE WHAT A NEW LIBRARY IN SOUTHERN JEFFERSON COUNTY WOULD MEAN TO YOU? PLEASE INCLUDE UP TO THREE WORDS.

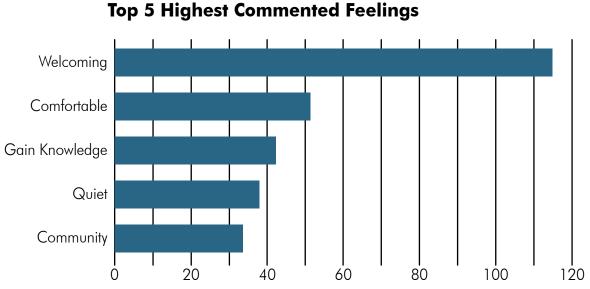
# **TAKEAWAYS:**

- The most mentioned word was **exciting.** This is reflective of the public being excited to have a library in this location. This is reinforced by the frequent use of other key words including: convenient, nearby, community, access, connective, and proximity.
- Survey participants chose words that highlighted their vision for a **welcoming and inclusive** library, one that is educational, resourceful, and set in a modern, vibrant environment.
- The community has emphasized the importance of a space that **fosters a sense of connection.** The new library should be a space that allows for ample opportunities for the **community** to come together.



# **TAKEAWAYS:**

- Participants are looking for a space that is **warm**, welcoming, and inviting. Individuals are seeking comfort through environmental factors and support from helpful, friendly staff.
- The community has expressed interest in an inclusive and diverse space that allows community to build in a no judgment zone. People want to feel like they can be 100% themselves, that diversity is both welcomed and appreciated, and that age, education level, race, ethnicity, gender identity, etc. is accommodated and celebrated.
- The feedback has shown that the community values a space that fosters knowledge. That can be realized through group collaboration opportunities, teaching/tutoring moments, and/or individual, quiet growth.



"IS COZY AND WARM. A PLACE TO CURL UP WITH A BOOK OR SPEND TIME READING/WORKING OUTSIDE." - COMMUNITY MEMBER

> "WELCOMES MY CHILDREN. GIVES THEM ACCESS TO PLAY AND TIME TO EXPLORE BOOKS." - COMMUNITY MEMBER

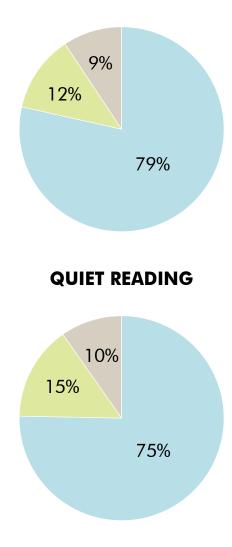
"SUPPORTS EXPLORATION AND KNOWLEDGE." - COMMUNITY MEMBER

> "PROVIDE A PEACEFUL AN QUIET ENVIRONMENT." - COMMUNITY MEMBER

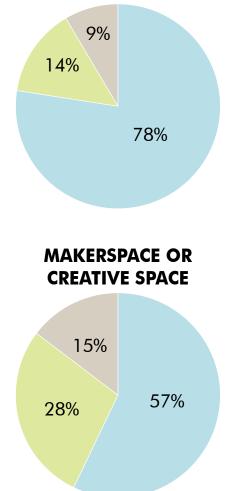
# TAKEAWAYS:

- Of the top four spaces that appealed to participants, two are high energy spaces (outdoor and maker) and two are heads-down spaces (study and reading). This indicates that the library must strike a balance between loud and quiet for all patrons to be satisfied.
- Many respondents also felt children's spaces were important; Kids & Family Space, Children's Story Time Area, and Early Childhood spaces individually received between 39% to 51% response rates of spaces that would likely be used. Combining the three results makes for a compelling use of family areas.
- The four spaces adults were least inclined to use are:
  - Listening space for audiobooks or podcasts
  - Dedicated teen
  - Digital media
  - Gaming room

### **OUTDOOR SPACES**



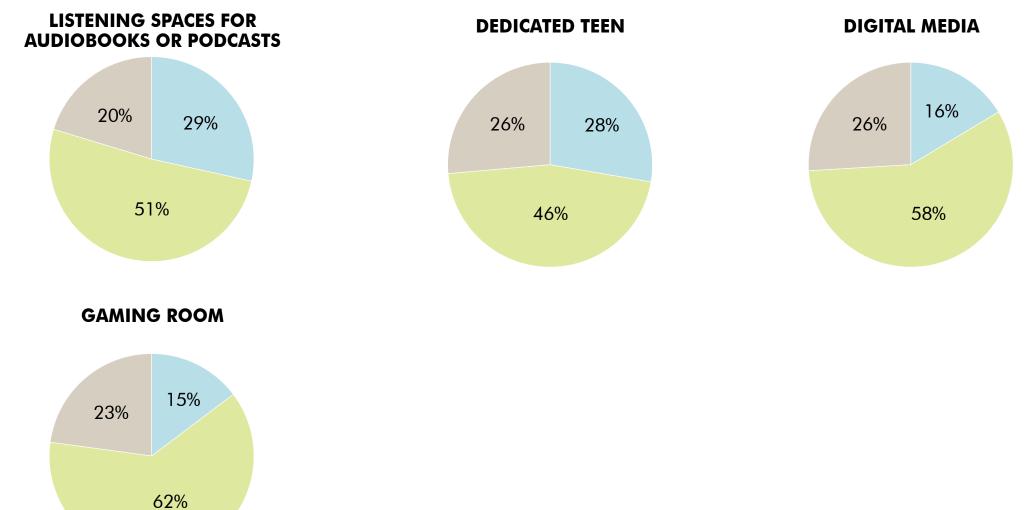
### INDIVIDUAL SEATING FOR STUDY

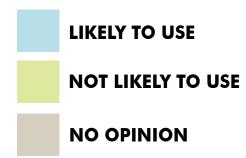






COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS





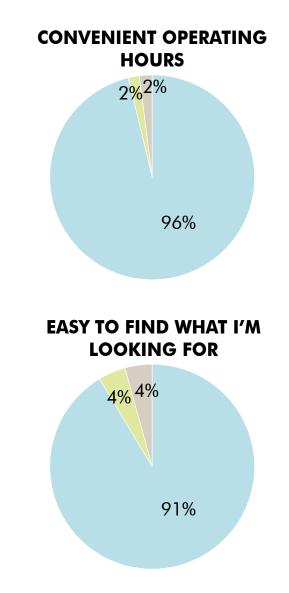
# PLEASE TELL US HOW IMPORTANT THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS ARE TO YOU:

# TAKEAWAYS:

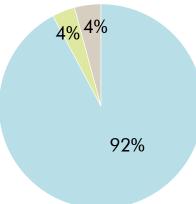
- Participants felt like the following were the most important elements to include in the new library:
  - Convenient operating hours
  - A welcoming environment
  - Easy to find items/spaces
  - Natural light
  - Comfortable furniture

These five categories accounted for 85% of the total votes for "important".

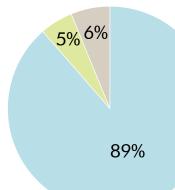
• The only element receiving **under 30%** for "important" was **translation services.** This reflects the demographic that participated in these surveys and likely does not represent the opinions of all library users.

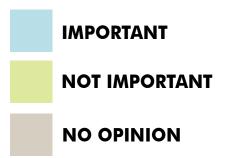


### WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

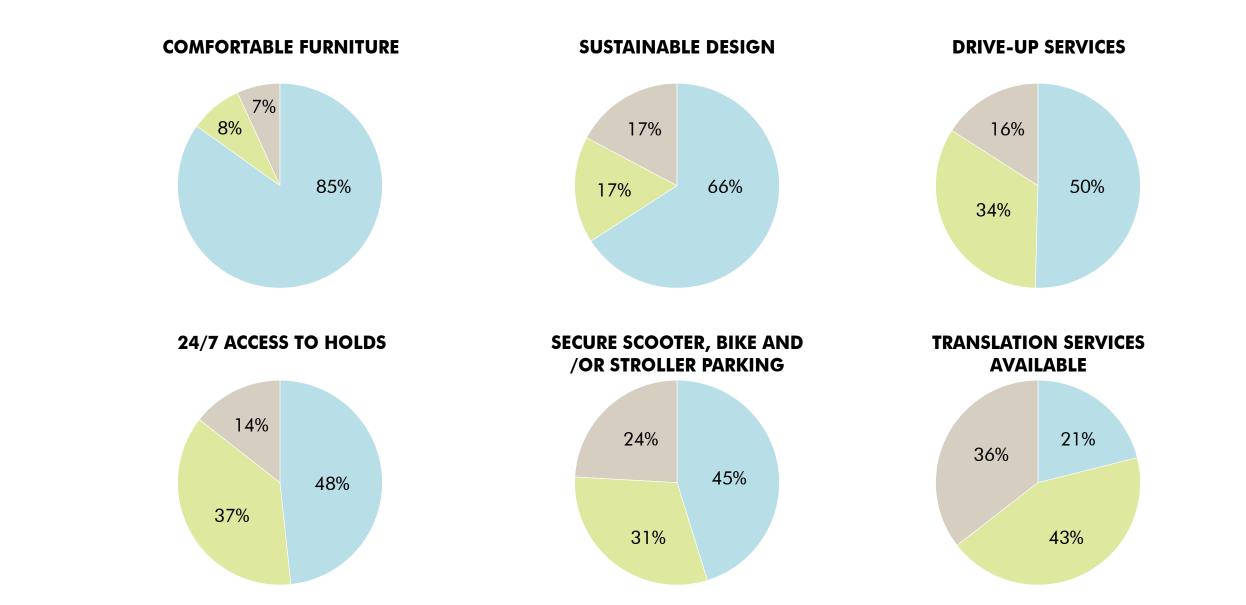


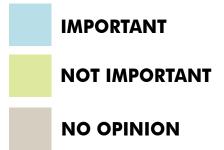
## NATURAL LIGHT





# PLEASE TELL US HOW IMPORTANT THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS ARE TO YOU:



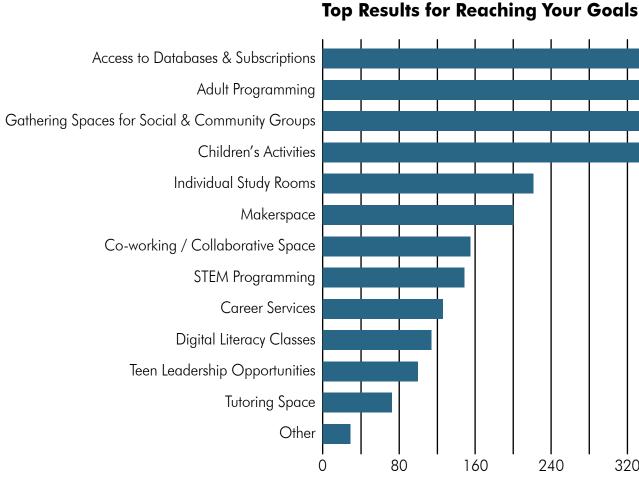


# WHAT SERVICES, RESOURCES, PROGRAMS OR MEDIA COULD THE LIBRARY OFFER TO HELP YOU REACH YOUR PERSONAL, EDUCATIONAL **OR WORK GOALS?**

# **TAKEAWAYS:**

### Participants highlighted four key areas that would best ٠ support their goals:

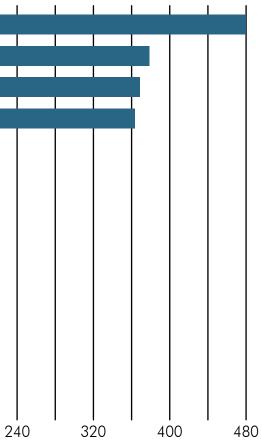
- Access to databases and subscriptions
- Adult programming
- Gathering spaces for social and community groups
- Children's activities
- Although not in the top four, the succeeding 3 line items, all reflect the desire for individuals and/or groups to have a dedicated space to sit and work.
  - Individual study room •
  - Makerspace •
  - **Co-working/collaborative space** •
- A lot of the lower-ranked items include "people helping people" services. While most of the community may not be looking for career services or tutoring for example, these services are still desired by some and should be considered.



"KNOWLEDGEABLE, FRIENDLY AND HELPFUL STAFF." - COMMUNITY MEMBER

> "COFFEE BAR." - COMMUNITY MEMBER

# COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

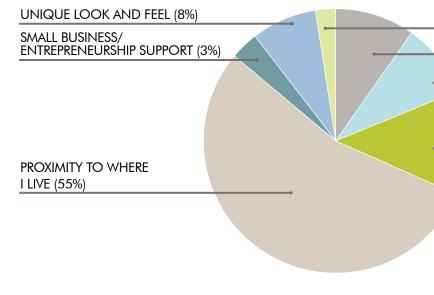


"FINANCIAL AND CRAFT CLASSES," - COMMUNITY MEMBER

# WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING THINGS (IF ANY) ARE YOU MOST EXCITED ABOUT FOR YOUR NEW LIBRARY? PLEASE CHECK ONE.

# **TAKEAWAYS:**

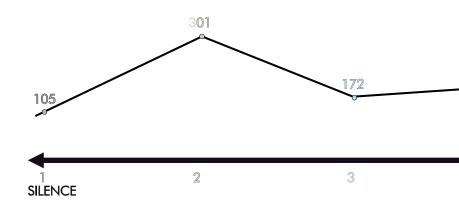
- Survey participants identified the new location as the primary factor for their excitement, which is not unexpected given that 88% of respondents come from surrounding communities and neighborhoods.
- Beyond the location, which is set, the community is most ٠ excited for the library programming/services they'll now have access to and having a third place that acts as a community hub.



CONTEMPORARY LIBRARIES HAVE QUIET / ACTIVE ZONES TO ACCOMMODATE VARIOUS USES. DO YOU TYPICALLY SPEND MORE TIME IN A QUIET SPACE OR A SPACE WITH COMFORTABLE CONVERSATION NOISE LEVEL? PLEASE INDICATE LEVEL OF LOUDNESS PREFERRED (1-5).

# **TAKEAWAYS:**

• Survey participants gravitated to the **quieter** side of the chart for the level of noise comfort, however an overall spread shows a balance is ideal for the library.



OTHER (3%) COMMUNITY HUB (10%) LIBRARY PROGRAMMING (9%) POTENTIAL NEW SERVICES (13%)

195

98

4 OUTDOOR VOICE

# 9 HOW DO YOU USE THE LIBRARY AS A COMMUNITY SPACE TODAY? AND WHAT COULD THE LIBRARY OFFER TO ASSIST WITH THOSE ACTIVITIES?

# TAKEAWAYS:

- Individuals use the library as a community space for group meet-ups, study groups, library events, lectures/presentations, children's events (like story time), and so much more.
- To support the needs of these community events, patrons need **ample gathering space options** that vary in size, function, and resources provided.

*"LECTURES ON VARIOUS TOPICS, CONCERTS, COOKING CLASSES, ART SHOWS."* - COMMUNITY MEMBER

> "I MOSTLY USE THE LIBRARY WITH MY KIDS AND ENJOY STORYTIME, PAWS FOR READING, AND OTHER FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENTS." - COMMUNITY MEMBER

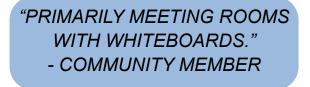
# $10^{\circ}$ are you involved in any groups that could use the library as a gathering place? If so, please list below.

# TAKEAWAYS:

 Participants in the survey mentioned community, educational, and social groups as primary users. Of the 446 responses, those with the highest responses were Book Club (80 responses), Crafts (37), and Mom's/ Women's/Men's Groups (28). "PTA COMMITTEES, SCOUTS, HOA." - COMMUNITY MEMBER

> "TUTORING GROUPS." - COMMUNITY MEMBER

COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS





"BOOK CLUB." - COMMUNITY MEMBER

# WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO IN A NEW LIBRARY?

# **TAKEAWAYS:**

Common themes from the short-answer responses received from survey participants indicate participants are most looking forward to:

- Enhanced children's spaces and activities.
- Improved community gathering spaces.
- Better access and convenience provided by the closer location.

"PROGRAMS AND COMMUNITY SPACE." - COMMUNITY MEMBER

"CONTINUED STACKS AND PHYSICAL MATERIALS WHILE KEEPING UP WITH TECH ACCESS." - COMMUNITY MEMBER

**"BETTER LOCATION. LIBRARY WITH** MORE DEDICATED PARKING SPACE." - COMMUNITY MEMBER

"AN UPDATED AND EXCITING PLACE TO BRING THE FAMILY." - COMMUNITY MEMBER

"ACCESS TO ALL THE SERVICES, AMENITIES, AND RESOURCES. I WANT MY CHILD TO UNDERSTAND HOW MUCH BEING A PART OF A LIBRARY CAN HELP THEM IN EVERY STAGE OF LIFE." - COMMUNITY MEMBER

> "ADULT CLASSES AND MAKER SPACES THAT GIVE ACCESS TO SOFTWARE, TOOLS, AND MACHINES THAT I WOULD OTHERWISE NOT BE ABLE TO AFFORD." - COMMUNITY MEMBER

# DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER INPUT FOR US ABOUT FUTURE LIBRARY SERVICES AT THE SOUTH COUNTY LIBRARY LOCATION?

# **TAKEAWAYS:**

Common themes from the short answer responses received from survey participants include:

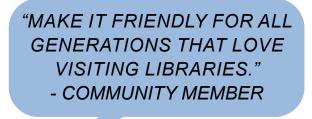
- Provide ample parking and easy site access; including sidewalk connections to local paths and neighborhoods.
- Design should be **respectful** of neighbors and the environment. Although many indicate the need for better site access, some nearby neighbors are concerned with increased traffic associated with adding sidewalk connections. This should be explored further in design to determine how to increase site access while respecting adjacent private residents.
- Offer additional amenities like a cafe and/or makerspace.
- The services and spaces should reflect the diverse needs and interests of the community.

"A PHYSICAL LIBRARY SHOULD BE A PLACE FOR OUR COMMUNITY TO SHARE KNOWLEDGE WITH EACH OTHER." - COMMUNITY MEMBER

**"ENTRY/EXIT LOCATION OFF OF** CHATFIELD WOULD BE GREAT TO HAVE A ROUNDABOUT FOR SAFETY." - COMMUNITY MEMBER

> **"COMMUNITY GARDEN AND UNIQUE** SERVICES NOT OFFERED BY COLUMBINE LIBRARY, I.E.SEED LIBRARY. MAKER SPACE WITH ACCESS TO NEW TECHNOLOGIES." - COMMUNITY MEMBER

"GOOD OPEN PLAY AREA FOR KIDS THAT ISN'T CLOSED OR CONSTRAINED." - COMMUNITY MEMBER



# **TEEN SURVEYS**

# **PROCESS OVERVIEW & DEMOGRAPHICS**

Surveys were posted to the JCPL website on January 17, 2025 and were open for input until March 3, 2025. Paper copies, in both English and Spanish, of the surveys were also available at the Columbine Library and the Bookmobile.

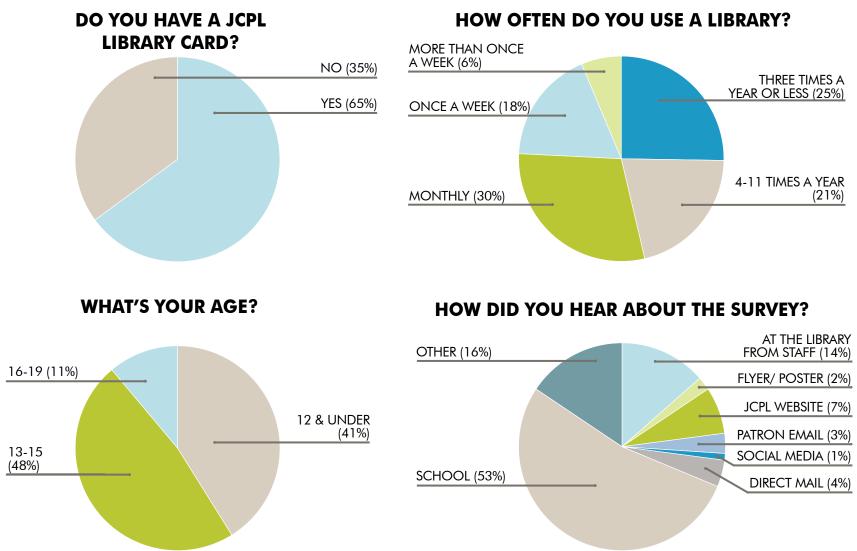
- A total of 1,852 community members completed surveys. 207 of those individuals were students.
- Of the 67 students who input their zip code, 75%, reside in Littleton. The remaining 25% reside in Arvada, Denver, or Westminster.
- 65% of all participants are library cardholders, and 54% frequent the library at least once a month.

Surveys contained a variety of short-answer and multiple-choice questions. These findings highlight the importance of creating a library space that is comfortable, inclusive, and equipped with modern technology and specialized areas to meet the diverse needs of teens, including:

- **Escape and Enjoyment:** Teens appreciate the library as a place for escape, enjoyment, and excitement.
- Specialized Areas: Some teens mentioned using sensory areas, craft spaces, and sections for specific interests like manga and cooking books.
- Technology and Gaming: Desired features include gaming rooms, VR headsets, and gaming computers.

The results of the surveys showed many commonalities with the data received from the Teen Survey. A sampling is noted below:

- **Safe and Inclusive:** It's seen as a safe, inviting, and inclusive environment.
- Study and Reading Areas: Popular areas include reading nooks, study rooms, and quiet reading spaces.
- Comfortable and Inviting Spaces: Teens want cozy reading areas with comfortable seating, like bean bags and hanging chairs.

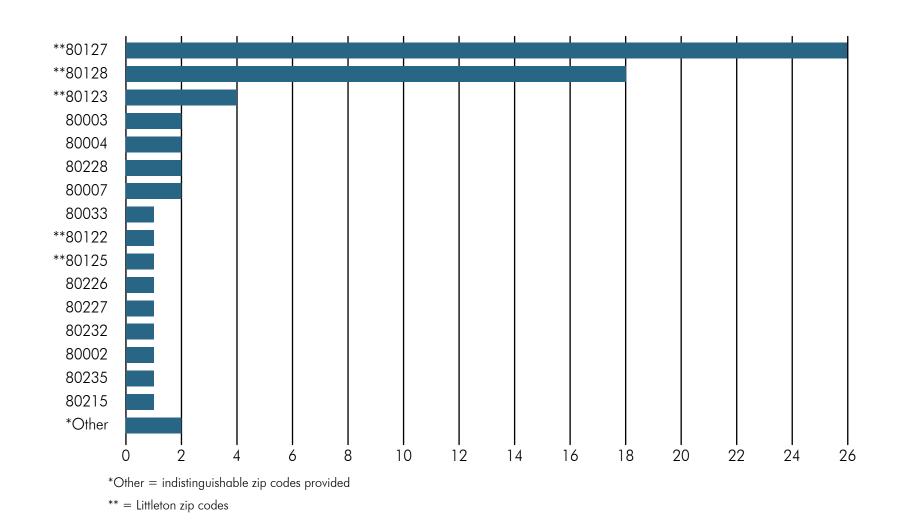


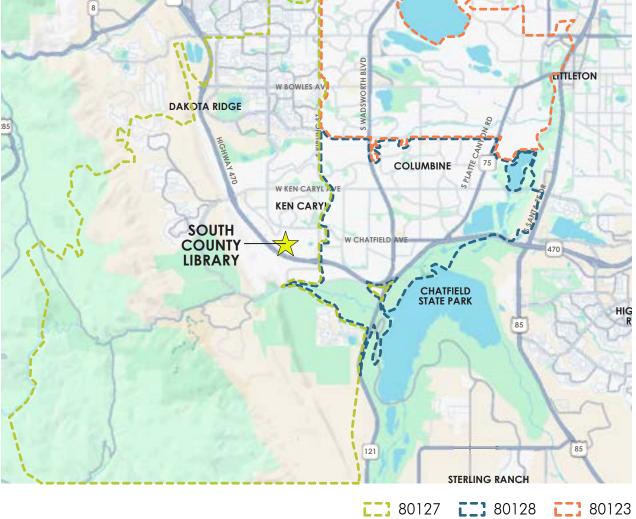
\*Community English and Spanish, teen English and Spanish survey results have been incorporated into overall survey results. Full responses can be found in the appendix.

\*Due to rounding, percentages are approximate and may not total 100%.

# WHAT'S YOUR ZIP CODE?

Zip Code Analysis Participants: 67

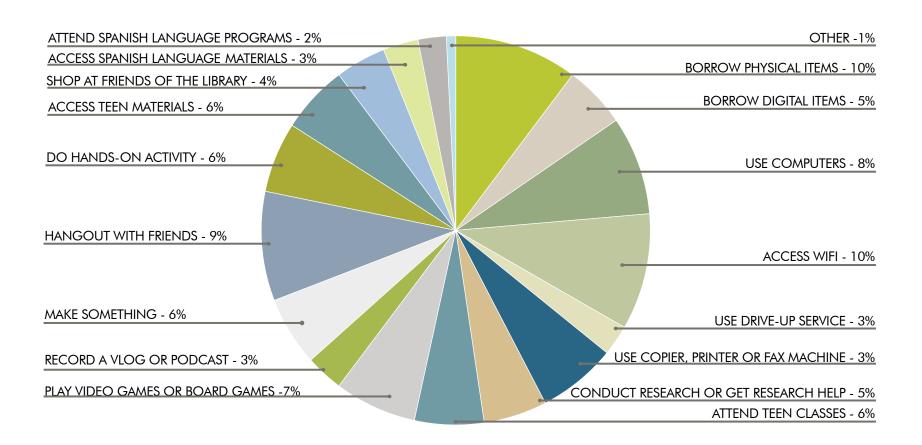




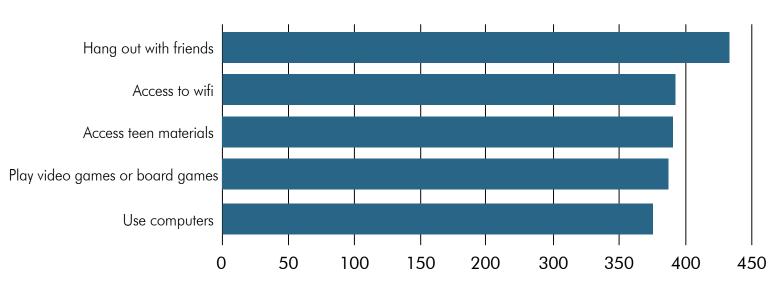
WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING LIBRARY SERVICES, IF ANY, WOULD YOU USE AT THE NEW SOUTH COUNTY LIBRARY? RANK THE TOP FIVE THAT ARE MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU.

# TAKEAWAYS:

- **Responses from teens varied greatly**. A few comments filtered to the top, but not with resounding certainty. Due to the varied desires from this demographic, it will be challenging to personify the "stereotypical teen" for which to design.
- Although not by an extreme margin, the top comment, mentioned 383 times, was hang out with friends.
- A few other top comments include access to WiFi, access to teen materials, playing video or board games, and using computers. Perhaps in line with the digital era, 3 of the top 5 comments reference technology. However, 2 of the top 5 reference interaction with others, so a sense of community should also be considered.



### **Top 5 Highest Commented Uses**



WHAT WORD(S) WOULD YOU USE TO DESCRIBE WHAT A NEW LIBRARY IN SOUTHERN JEFFERSON COUNTY WOULD MEAN TO YOU? PLEASE INCLUDE UP TO THREE WORDS.

TAKEAWAYS:

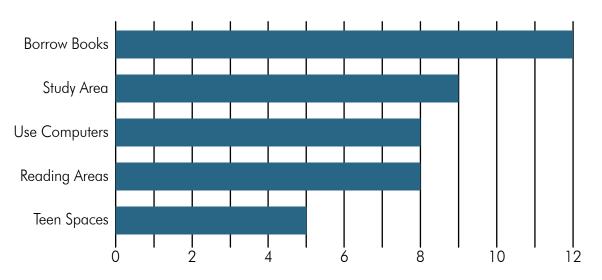
- Teens chose words that highlighted their vision for a **quiet**, calm and safe environment that can be used for both community gatherings as well as learning spaces.
- The teens also focused on a space that can be used for social aspects, such as hanging with friends and a way to escape.



# WHEN VISITING A LIBRARY WHAT OTHER AREAS DO YOU REGULARLY USE (OUTSIDE THE TEEN AREA)?

# TAKEAWAYS:

• Teen participants identified borrowing books and computers, as well as using study and reading areas as their biggest reason for visiting the library.

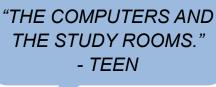


"I USE INDIVIDUAL SEATING SPOTS FOR HOMEWORK AND I USE NON-FICTION BOOKS AS RESOURCES FOR STUDYING." - TEEN

*"I USE THE OUTDOOR* SEATING AREA A LOT." - TEEN



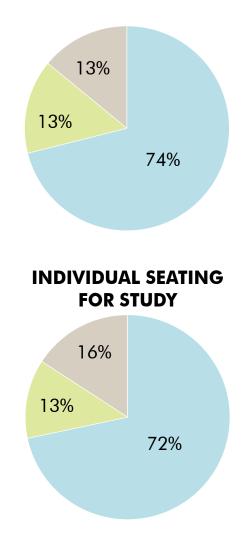
*"THE ARTS AND CRAFTS* AREA, THE READING AREA, AND THE GAMING AREA." - TEEN



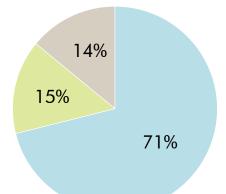
## TAKEAWAYS:

- The top four spaces that appealed to participants include outdoor spaces, study rooms, individual seating for study, and a dedicated teen area. Of the top four, two are high-energy spaces (outdoor and maker), and two are heads-down spaces (study and teen). This indicates that the library will need to strike a balance between loud and quiet for all patrons to be satisfied.
- Responses receiving under 40% for "likely to use" include coworking space, listening space for audiobooks or podcasts, community/meeting rooms, and digital media studio.

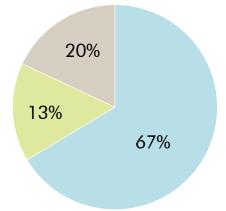
### **OUTDOOR SPACES**

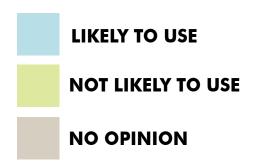


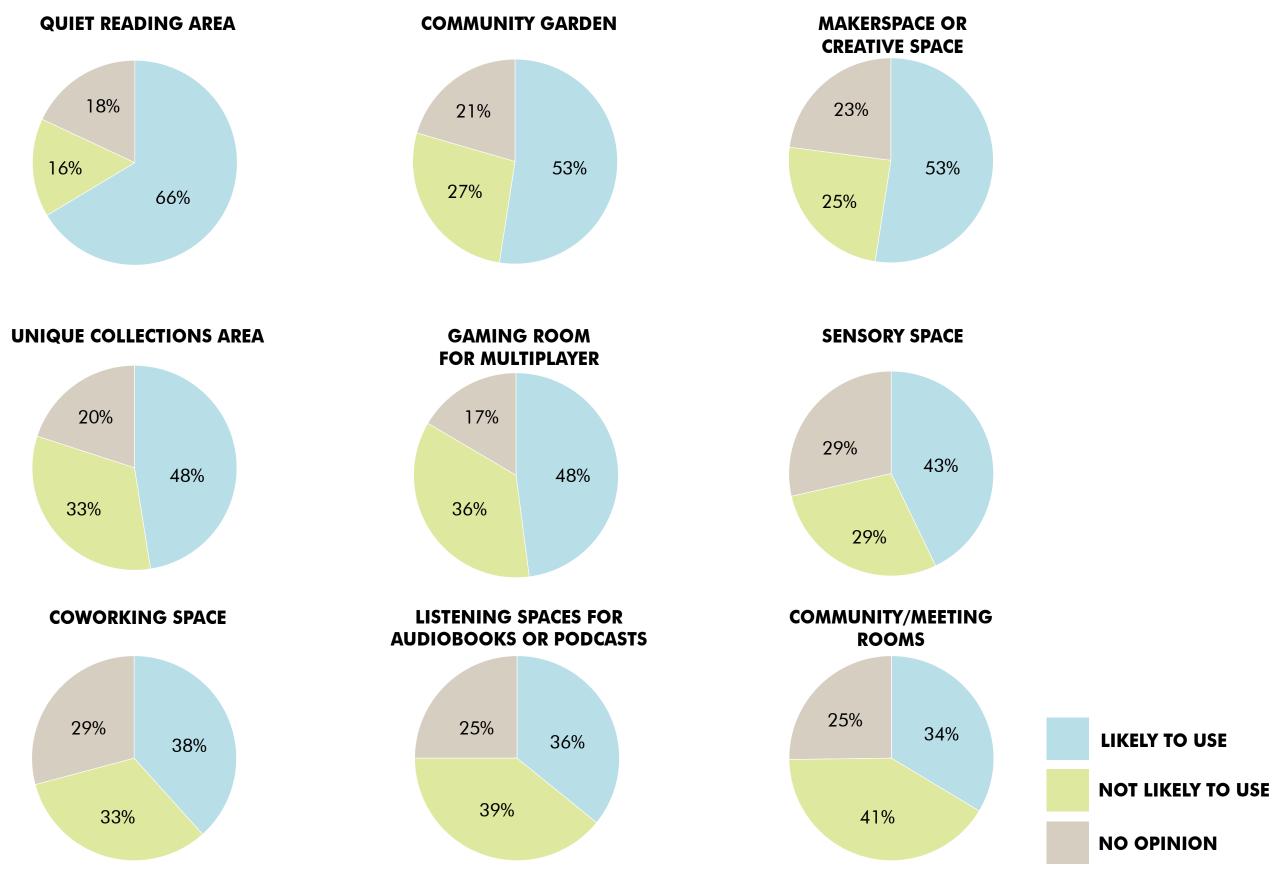
### **STUDY ROOMS**



### **DEDICATED TEEN AREA**



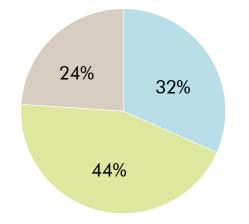




SOUTH COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICES | COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT



### **DIGITAL MEDIA STUDIO**

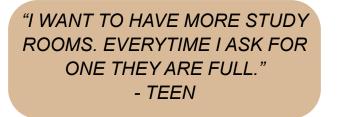




WHAT IS THE TOP THING THAT YOU WOULD REQUEST WE INCLUDE IN THE NEW LIBRARY? LET YOUR IMAGINATION GO WILD!

# **TAKEAWAYS:**

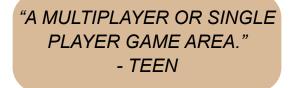
- Teens came up with a plethora of fun and creative ideas for ٠ their new library spaces, ranging from realistic additions like gaming areas, fish tanks, and gardens to imaginative wishes like laser tag arenas and swimming pools, showcasing their vibrant and inventive minds.
- Many responses to this question reinforced requests teens made in other survey questions, including the need for **more** study rooms, cozy reading areas, and outdoor space.



"A LOT OF BOOKS! DIFFERENT GENRES. NEW, OLD. JUST A LOT OF BOOKS. MAYBE A REALLY BIG STAIRCASE OF BOOKS!" - TEEN

"A SNACK AREA SO WE CAN EAT SNACKS. OR A SNACK CART." - TEEN

## **"COZY ROOMS TO READ IN WHERE** THERE ARE BEAN BAGS AND HANGING CHAIRS TO SIT IN AND READ IN." - TEEN



"AN OUTDOOR SEATING PLACE WITH A LITTLE GARDEN." - TEEN

# **STAFF SURVEYS**

# **PROCESS OVERVIEW**

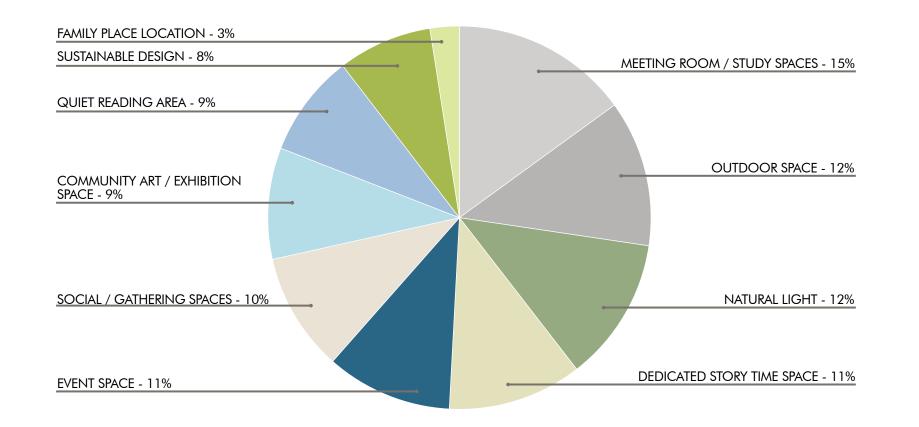
Surveys were made available to JCPL staff on January 17, 2025 and were open for input until March 3, 2025. Input for the new South County Library was open to all staff.

• A total of 117 staff members completed surveys.

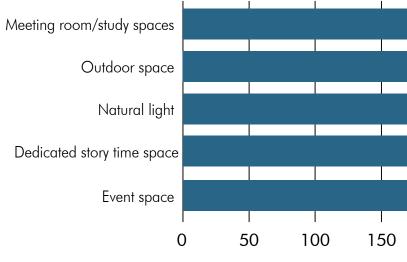
# **TAKEAWAYS:**

• JCPL staff had diverse opinions on the most important features for the new library, with the top nine selections differing by only 7 percentage points. To meet the varied needs and preferences of the staff, a well-balanced design will be necessary. This approach ensures that the new library accommodates the wide range of priorities identified by the staff.

# PLEASE TELL US HOW IMPORTANT THE FOLLOWING FEATURES WOULD BE IN THE NEW SOUTH COUNTY LIBRARY. (RANK YOUR TOP 5)



### **Top 5 Highest Commented Uses**







## THERE ARE SO MANY EXCITING THINGS HAPPENING IN LIBRARIES ALL OVER THE WORLD. YOU'VE PROBABLY READ OR HEARD ABOUT SOME INNOVATIVE IDEAS. IF YOU COULD PICK THE <u>ONE</u> BIG IDEA THAT WOULD MAKE A "WOW" AT THE NEW SOUTH COUNTY LIBRARY, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

#### TAKEAWAYS:

Staff spaces should be functional, inviting, and well-equipped, featuring ample storage, comfortable seating, and quality lighting. Staff have provided big ideas for seed libraries, rain gardens, and other spaces dedicated to nature and the environment. They have also requested a break room with natural lighting, dedicated meeting areas, and flexible spaces tailored for various tasks.



# BLEASE SHARE ANY RECOMMENDATIONS YOU HAVE FOR THE NEW LIBRARY.

#### TAKEAWAYS:

Innovative and creative ideas for the new South County
Library focusing on practical workspaces and dedicated
areas for different user groups, flexible, communityoriented spaces, advanced technology, accessibility
features, comfortable and sustainable design elements, and
additional conveniences like stroller parking and drive-up
return bins.

"I WOULD LOVE TO SEE A LARGE AUDITORIUM FOR EVENTS, MOVIE SCREENINGS, WORKSHOPS, AND COMMUNITY EVENTS." - JCPL STAFF

> "A BROADER COLLECTION OF ITEMS INCLUDING VIDEO GAMES, SMALL INSTRUMENTS, BIRDWATCHING KITS, ART KITS, ETC." - JCPL STAFF

"A SMALL COFFEE SHOP WOULD BE IDEAL!" - JCPL STAFF

"UNIQUE OUTDOOR WALKING PATH, INTEGRATED IN NATURE AND WITH LOCAL ART INSTALLATIONS." - JCPL STAFF

> "I ALWAYS LOVE A CHILDREN'S SPACE THAT CELEBRATES CHILDREN'S LITERATURE. IT WOULD BE GREAT TO HAVE MORE DÉCOR SUCH AS POSTERS, CRAFTS HANGING FROM THE CEILING, MURALS, ETC." - JCPL STAFF

# **SOCIAL HOURS**

# PROCESS OVERVIEW

#### SUMMARY:

In January and February of 2025, JCPL partnered with EUA and Clermont Eliot to engage with and gather feedback from local community members regarding their vision for the new South County Library. Over the course of a few weeks, the team set up a variety of informational stations around the community and recruited those interested to provide input on the Feel, Features, and Flexibility of the new library space. These events took place at Bean Fosters, Ken Caryl Bookmobile, Wild Sky Brewery, Atlas Coffee, and The Ridge Recreation Center. 127 individuals participated in these events.

#### AREAS OF FOCUS:

Feel	<ol> <li>What should the library feel like when you're inside?</li> <li>How quiet should it be?</li> <li>How might an outdoor space serve the community?</li> </ol>
Features	<ul><li>4. Should this library be unique or similar to others in the area?</li><li>5. Are libraries a place to do things or go get things?</li><li>6. What makes a building safe and accessible?</li></ul>
Flexibility	<ol> <li>What would motivate you to visit the new library?</li> <li>Who should be kept in mind when designing?</li> </ol>

9. How should the future play into the design?

	EVE
01.31.25	Bean Fo Coffee Conv
02.01.25	Ken Ca Cocoa Conv
02.07.25	Wild Sk Social Hour
02.08.25	Atlas Co Coffee Conv
02.10.25	<b>The Rid</b> Cocoa Conv

# ENTS

Fosters nversation 1 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

aryl Bookmobile nversation 1 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

ky Brewery r 1 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Coffee nversation | 8:30 - 10:30 a.m.

dge Recreation Center nversation 1 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

# **TAKEAWAYS:**

- Feel The South County Library should feel welcoming, comfortable, and safe. Quiet **spaces** (for reading and studying) and **active spaces** (for events and gathering) should both be present within the library.
- Features The library should be **similar to other** newly renovated JCPL locations, yet unique enough to distinguish it as South County. The community expressed interest in several unique features, such as a tool lending service, a create space, an outdoor garden, a business/ technology hub, and a performance space. Additionally, individuals interviewed also emphasized the importance of maintaining traditional services, such as access to physical and digital materials like books, movies, and music.
- Flexibility To encourage community members to utilize the library, it should provide events/ activities suitable for various ages, enticing amenities (like a coffee shop), outdoor spaces, and unique features and/or a unique atmosphere. To grow successfully as future generations grow, the library should **foster connections**, focus on joy, provide new technology, be a center for social services, and encourage readers of all ages to visit.



BEAN FOSTERS, INTERVIEW SET-UP



ATLAS COFFEE, COCOA CONVERSATION





KEN CARYL BOOKMOBILE, INTERVIEW

KEN CARYL BOOKMOBILE, COCOA CONVERSATION

# **DESIGN FIELD TRIPS**

# **PROCESS OVERVIEW**

#### SUMMARY:

JCPL partnered with EUA and Clermont Eliot to organize design field trips for 23 high school students who attend school near the new South County Library site. These community engagement events were arranged in hopes of gathering information from the teen perspective. Teens were given an overview of the project, a tour of the site, and an opportunity to voice their opinions. Regarding a library environment, students were encouraged to speak on what they would have gravitated towards as children, how they would feel supported as teens, and what they would hope to see in the future as they grow and as the world continues to change.

#### **TAKEAWAYS:**

- Feel The library should feel **welcoming** and **comfortable** for all users. To support this goal, the space should have natural light, friendly staff, simple wayfinding, and a variety of spaces.
- Features The library should strike a balance between digital and physical materials. Specialty spaces, like a create space, an outdoor garden, and/or a recording room, would be appreciated.
- Flexibility The South County Library should provide users the spaces, programming, and tools they desire, such as **study** rooms, activities, and creative-based equipment.





DESIGN FIELD TRIP

#### DESIGN FIELD TRIPS OVERVIEW

# **CAPSTONE WORKSHOPS**

## PROCESS OVERVIEW

It was important to JCPL, EUA, and Clermont Eliot to gather input from the community regarding the Look & Feel of the new South County Library.

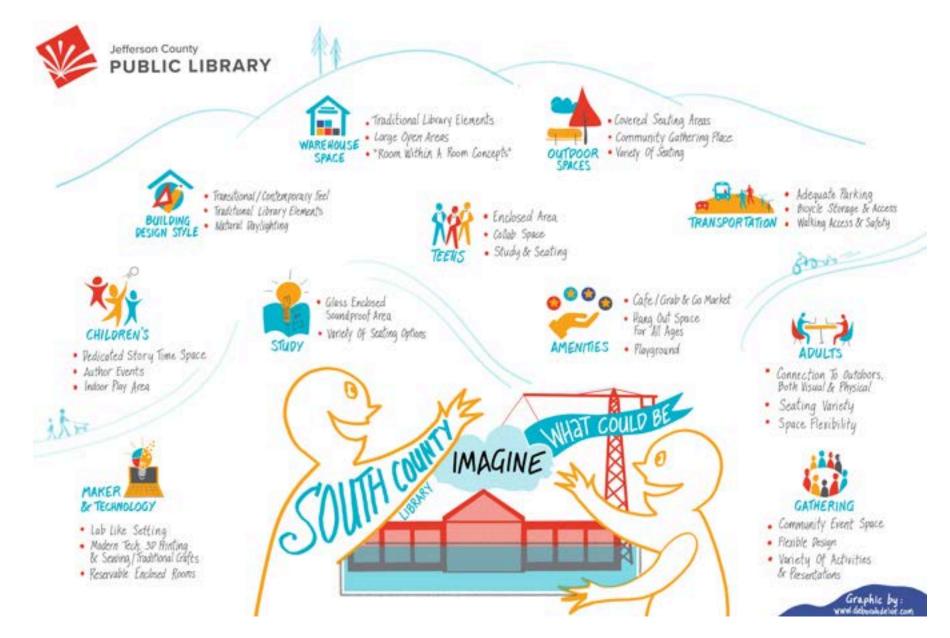
Capstone Workshops were promoted by JCPL through a number of avenues including social media, email blasts to patrons and community contacts, signs at the Columbine Library, event calendar entry on the JCPL website, direct mail postcard, postings at local businesses, radio and internet advertising, project page updates, and interactions with patrons.

The goal of the Capstone Workshops was to obtain information regarding the Look & Feel of the new Library with a focus on:

- Site and access
- Outdoor spaces and amenities
- Physical spaces within the library

The majority of questions were formatted to receive dot voting with options to also provide written and / or verbal responses. Results of dot voting are shown on the summary of each image. In-person Capstones were formatted as an interactive workshop where patrons had the opportunity to engage with our facilitators at three different stations, plus attend a walking tour of the new space. The process consisted of hosting multiple stations in the meeting rooms of both the Bradford building and Columbine Library over two Saturdays in February and March.

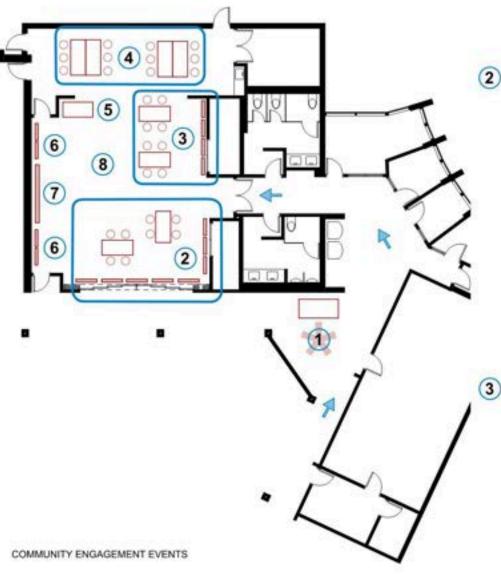
At each station, a series of boards were displayed on the wall where patrons could vote on a range of images using red and green dots, while leaving comments on 'stickies' for elements they liked or disliked. Questions accompanied the imagery in the hopes of stirring ideas and opening people's minds to fresh perspectives.



JCPL hired a Graphic Recorder Illustrator, Debbie DeLue, to capture feedback at the in-person meetings. A combined visual representation of the two in-person community meetings is shown below, capturing the sentiment of the community. The full findings and comments are found in the appendix at the end of this report.

# CAPSTONE OPEN HOUSE 02.22.25

#### OPEN HOUSE LAYOUT



#### 1 WELCOME TABLE

JCPL team members are available to welcome you to the Community Engagement Event. Team members can introduce attendees to the various activity zones and help you navigate the space. Additionally, a QR code linking to the online community survey is available below.

#### LIBRARY DESIGN

Target Audience: Adults + Teens + Kids

Site & Design boards and tables are set up with a focus on the new library site. Attendees will be asked various questions pertaining to the building design, site, amenities and wayfinding. Grab some 'dots' and enjoyf

Purpose: The Design Team will be gathering information on how to transform the exterior of the library.

Library Spaces zone will feature boards with inspirational images focused on the interior of the library. Attendees are asked to place a 'dot' and/or 'sticky note' next to photos they like or dislike and explain 'why'.

Green Dots/Sticky Note = Likes Red Dots/Sticky Note = Dislikes

Purpose: The Design Team will be gathering information on how the interior could be designed using inspirational images from around the globe.

#### ACTIVITY (PUZZLE PLAY)

Target Audience: Adults + Teens + Kids

The Design Team has a station set up to allow attendees the opportunity to place program elements (i.e. children's, adult, study, etc..) on a 'map' of the building. This will allow attendees the opportunity to discuss why certain programs fit within the new building.

#### 4 KID'S ACTIVITIES

A station with fun drawing and coloring activities for the kids.

#### 5 SNACK TABLE

Snacks and drinks are available for event participants.

#### 6 SITE PHOTOS

Photos are available to show the existing conditions of what will become the new South County Library. Previously a distribution & sales facility, the new library will occupy approximately 32,000 square feet of the existing 60,000 square foot building.

#### 7 VIDEO SCREEN / VIEWING AREA

Watch a special video created by Warren Tech South students. You'll see highlights from community input gathered thus far on the South County branch.

#### 8 GRAPHIC NOTE TAKER

The library has a graphic note taker to draw and capture a graphic representation of the day's events.

Purpose: The graphic note taker will be using illustrations to visually summarize conversations from both community engagement events.







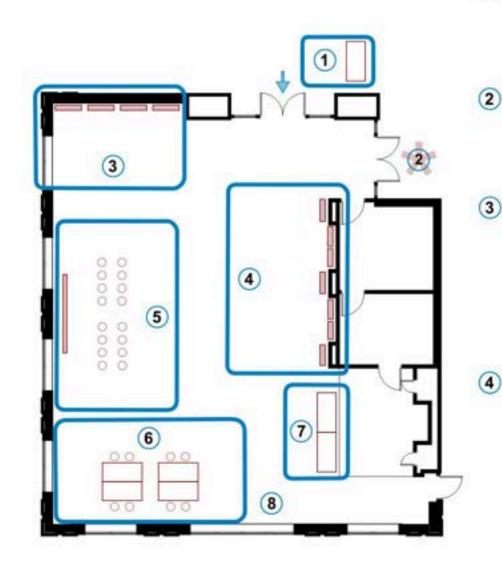






# CAPSTONE OPEN HOUSE 03.01.25

#### OPEN HOUSE LAYOUT



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

#### 1 WELCOME TABLE

JCPL team members will be available to welcome people to the Community Engagement Event. Team members will introduce everyone to the various activity zones and provide a handout to help people navigate the space. Additionally, a QR code linking to the online community survey will be available for attendees to scan.

#### LIBRARY TOURS

A brief building tour is available to all attendees. The Tour will start in the hallway south of the meeting room, look at the typical office spaces before proceeding into the current truck bays. The tour is recommended to help visitors understand the uniqueness of the building.

#### SITE SPACES

Target Audience: Adults + Teens + Kids

Boards and tables are set up with a focus on the new library site. Attendees will be asked various questions pertaining to the exterior of the building. Building design, site amenities and wayfinding will be just a few of those areas of focus.

Purpose: The Design Team will be gathering information on how to transform the exterior of the library.

#### LIBRARY SPACES

Target Audience: Adults + Teens + Kids

This zone will feature boards with inspirational images focused on the interior of the library. Attendees will be asked to place a 'dot' and/or 'sticky note' next to photos they like or dislike and explain 'why'.

Green Dots/ Sticky Note = Likes Red Dots/Sticky Note = Dislikes

Purpose: The Design Team will be gathering information on how they want the interior to be programmed and feel using inspirational images from around the globe.

#### 5 VIDEO SCREEN/ VIEWING AREA

Students from Warren Tech will be showing the video testimonial captured to date at all JCPL Community Engagement Events. Attendees will be able to see comments and ideas received to date in a video format.

#### 6 ACTIVITY (PUZZLE PLAY)

Target Audience: Adults + Teens + Kids

The Design Team will have a station set up to allow attendees the opportunity to place program elements (ie Children's, Adult, study, etc..) on a "map" of the building. This will allow attendees the opportunity to discuss why certain programs fit within the new building.

#### 7 SNACK TABLE

Snacks and drinks were available for event participants.

#### 8 GRAPHIC NOTE TAKER

The library will have a graphic note taker to draw and capture a graphic representation of the days events.

Purpose: The graphic note taker will be using illustrations to visually summarize conversations from both community engagement events.







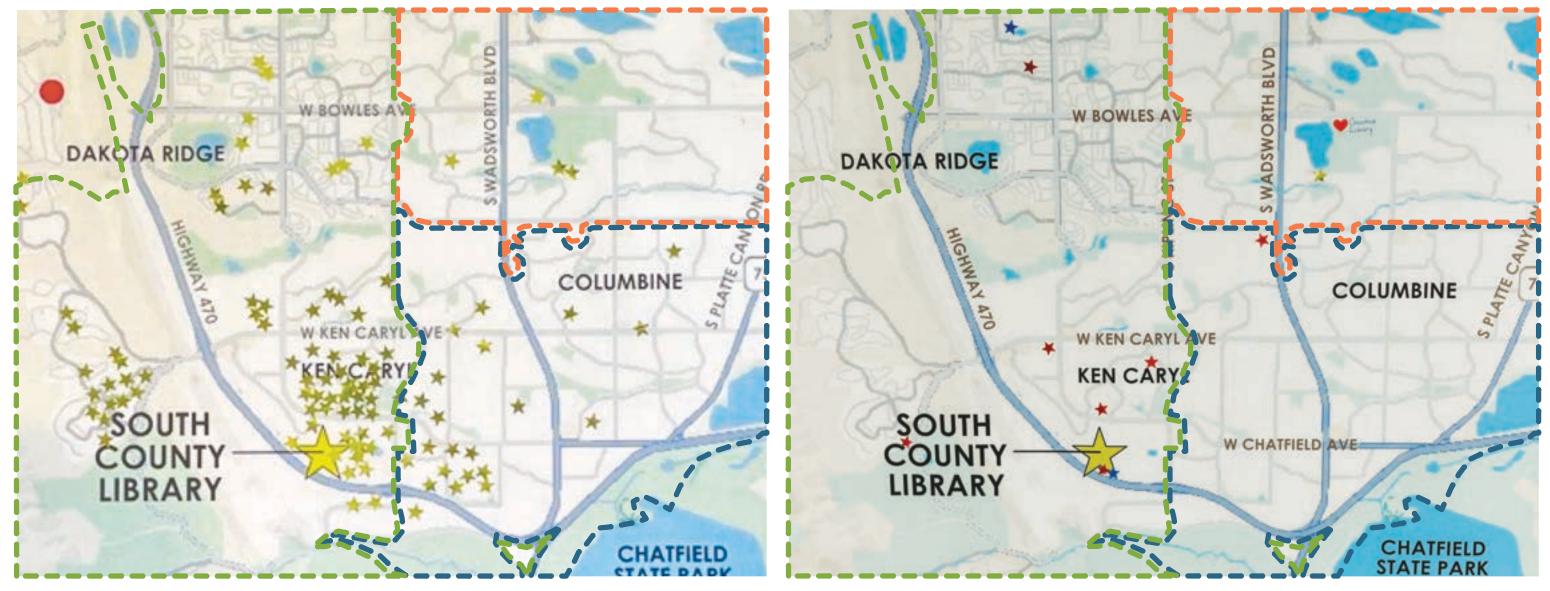




## WHAT'S YOUR ZIP CODE?

Zip Code Analysis Participants: 109

**6** 80127 **6** 80128 **6** 80123



MAP FROM 02.22.25 CAPSTONE | Participants: 99

MAP FROM 03.01.25 CAPSTONE | Participants: 10

# PUZZLE PLAY

#### SUMMARY:

At this station participants were guided to "maps" of either a site plan or a floor plan of the new library. Equipped with colorful blocks representing different program elements, participants were encouraged to place these blocks on the map. The goal? To creatively and strategically identify the best fit, or location, for each space. This engaging activity sparks lively discussions, fosters teamwork, and unleashes everyone's inner designer, making the planning process both fun and productive!

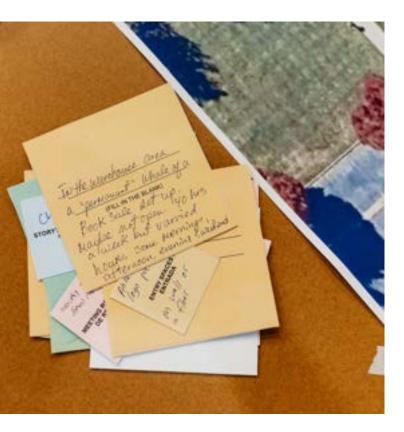


02.22.25 CAPSTONE





03.01.25 CAPSTONE



# PUZZLE PLAY - SITE PLAN

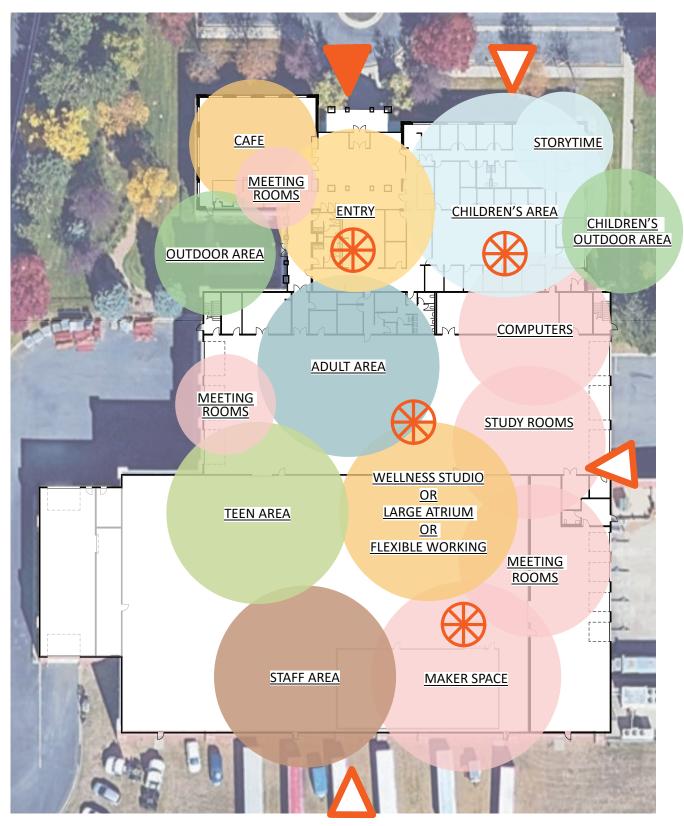


MAP FROM 02.22.25 CAPSTONE

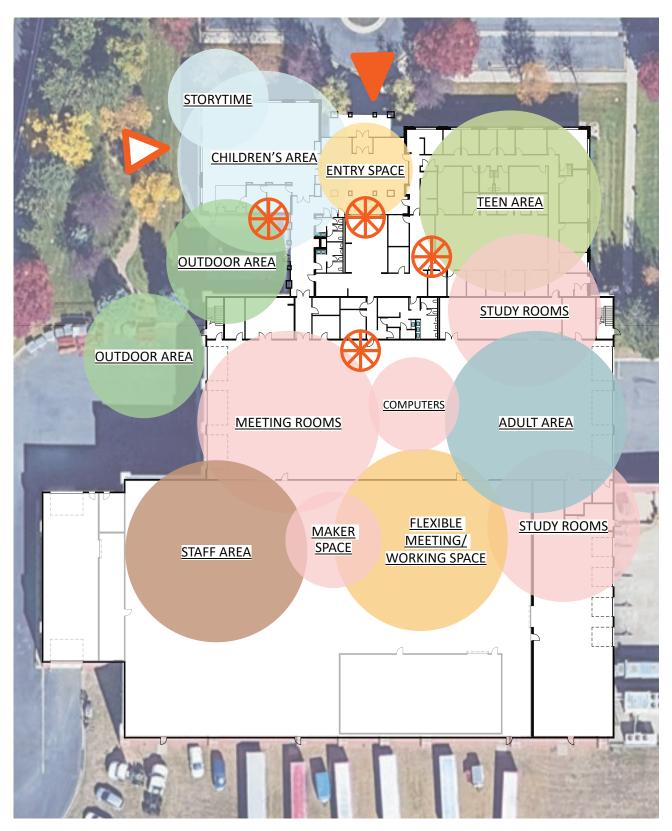


MAP FROM 03.01.25 CAPSTONE

# PUZZLE PLAY - FLOOR PLAN



PUZZLE PLAY 02.22.25 CAPSTONE



PUZZLE PLAY 03.01.25 CAPSTONE

#### SUMMARY:

At the Look and Feel activity, participants were presented with images from other libraries to stir thinking about what they would like (or not like) to see at the new South County Library. Various boards had questions alongside to prompt feedback. Participants voted using red (dislike) and green (liked) dots on which style, amenities and spaces they hoped to see. Additionally they were given the opportunity to write their thoughts on sticky notes and place them by the associated photo. Many valuable thoughts and opinions were gathered, the next several pages highlight the key takeaways from each section.



02.22.25 CAPSTONE



03.01.25 CAPSTONE





#### **AMENITIES**

#### What amenities would you like to see on site?



#### **TOP 3 RESULTS**



#### TAKEAWAYS:

- Participants selected two primary images with most votes going towards food service either as a café or Grab and Go Market. Participants noted that these spaces support other visitor functions whether it be social or professional.
- The next amenity participants were most interested in was having an outdoor children's play space.

#### **ADULT**

What would you like to see in the adult section at the South County Library?



- "LOVE THE LIVE PLANTS"
- "I THINK A CAFE WOULD BE GREAT FOR PEOPLE WHO NEED TO WORK"
- "CHAIRS IN BETWEEN STACKS FOR RESTING/MOBILITY CONCERNS. HELP GIVE SOME PREDICTABILITY OF SPACE"
- "OPEN SEATING WITH OUTSIDE VIEW"

# Casual Seati



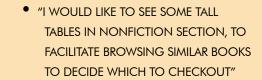


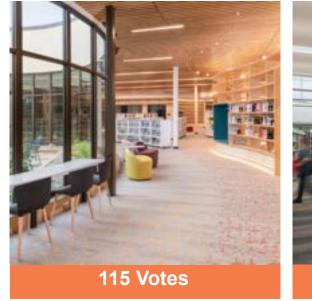
2

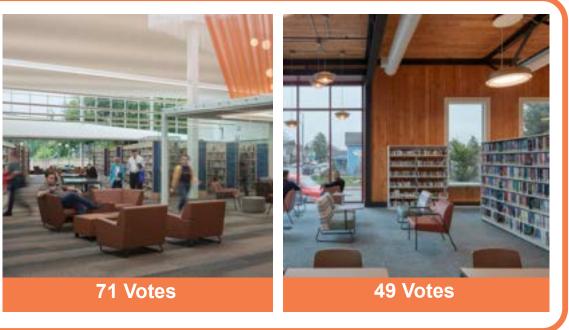
4

Exterior Connectior

- "COMFY CHAIRS W/ A READING LIGHT (FOR SENIOR READERS)"
- "LIKE CASUAL SPACES FOR INFORMAL GATHERINGS"







#### TAKEAWAYS:

• Participants were drawn to images that emphasized exterior connection along with casual seating areas and daylight.

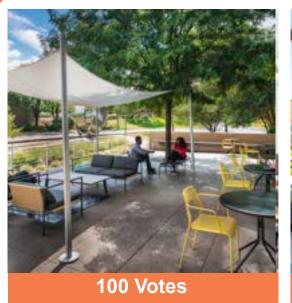
#### **TOP 3 RESULTS**

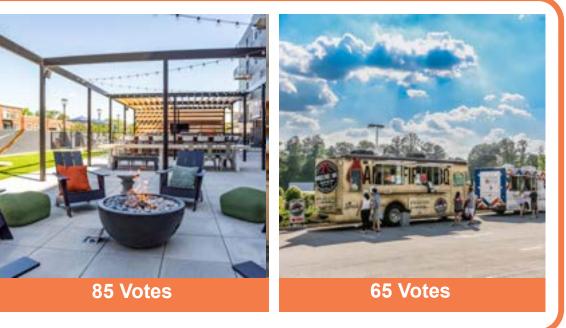
#### **OUTDOOR SPACE**

What do you envision for the outdoor space(s) at South County Library?



#### **TOP 3 RESULTS**





#### TAKEAWAYS:

• Outdoor spaces were very well received and participants generally gravitated to the more social spaces and feel.

#### **TRANSPORTATION**

How do you plan to visit the site?



- "LINK WALKABLE PATHS TO MEADOW RANCH NEIGHBORHOOD AND NATURE TRAILS AT THE OLD DEER CREEK GOLF SPACE"
- "CROSS WALK!"

-5

0

93

17

3

• "ADD A BIKE TRAIL TO CONNECT TO THE C-470 TRAIL"

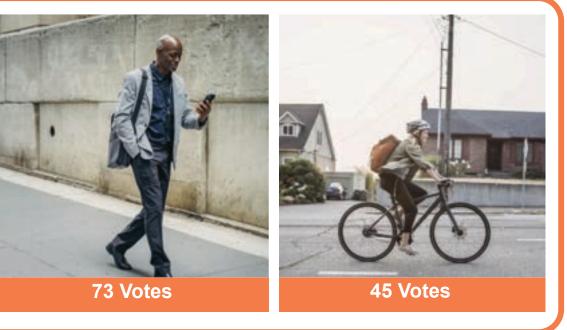
• "BIKE RACKS OR BIKE GARAGE :)"





- "ADEQUATE PARKING IS A MUST!"
- "BIG SIGNAGE ON CHATFIELD GOOGLE TAKES US AROUND A BACK WAY- VERY CONFUSING"





#### **TAKEAWAYS:**

• While personal vehicles remain the primary mode of transportation for participants, many also walk from local neighborhoods. To accommodate everyone's needs, the library should provide ample bicycle and other storage options on-site.

#### **BUILDING DESIGN STYLE**

What design style do you prefer for the South County Library?

# 83 6 IN LOT 54

- "BUT MUST HAVE NATURAL LIGHT!!"
- "I LIKE THE MODEL SHOWING 2ND LEVEL SPACE- IF THIS IS POSSIBLE!"

"LOTS OF WINDOWS!"

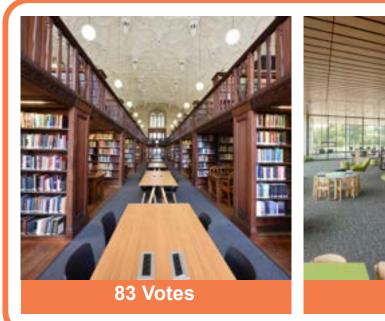
7

39

8

Transitiona

"KEEP EVERYTHING LIGHT AND BRIGHT ESPECIALLY ENTRANCE. CARPETING **KEEP NOISE DOWN"** 



#### **TAKEAWAYS:**

• Participants favored a traditional design, followed closely by a transitional style. Based on the feedback received, traditional elements are more appreciated in terms of materials and physical items, while the overall design leans towards a transitional or contemporary feel. This blend aims to create a space that honors classic library aesthetics while embracing modern design principles.



"NOT GOOD FOR OLDER ADULT OR HANDICAP"

**TOP 3 RESULTS** 



#### TEEN

What would you like to see in the teen section at South County Library?

6

27

3

36

# Open Teen Space



• "SO TEEN CAN BE LOUD & SOCIAL- AS THEY NEED TO BE!"

• "GAMING! I AM A TEEN"

GAMES"



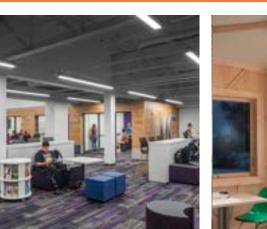




• "LOVE TO SEE MORE COLLAB SPACE FOR TEENS"

"I'M HERE TO READ NOT PLAY VIDEO

"A TEEN LED 3RD SPACE WITH FREE POOL/ FOOSBALL AND AREAS FOR STUDY"





#### TAKEAWAYS:

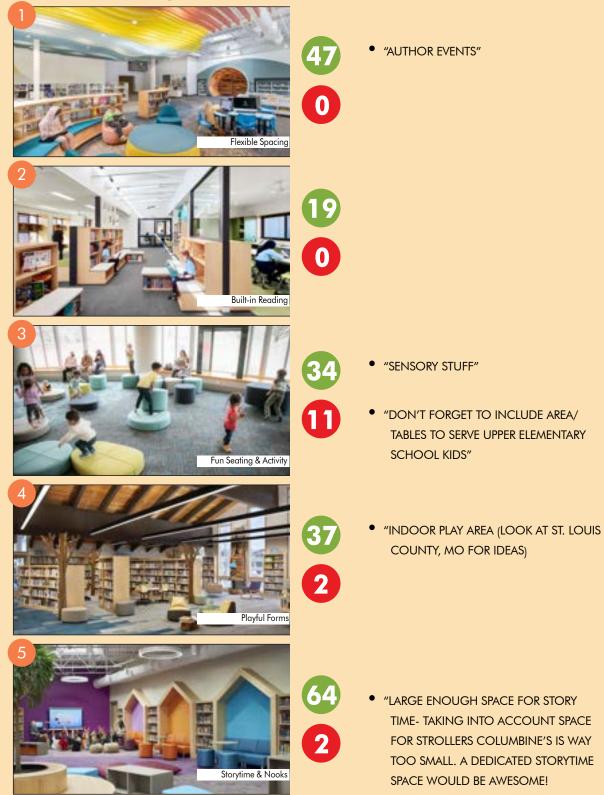
45 Votes

• Voting for the teen space showed a wide range of preferences among participants. However, the open teen space received the fewest votes, with most participants favoring an enclosed area.



#### **CHILDREN'S**

What would you like to see in the children's section at South County Library?



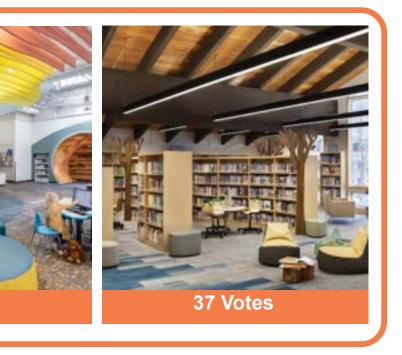


#### TAKEAWAYS:

• Participants envision the children's area as a vibrant space where fun, flexible seating, and playful nooks support Story Time and other children's activities. This design aims to create an engaging and dynamic environment that fosters creativity and learning.

CAPSTONE WORKSHOP RESULTS

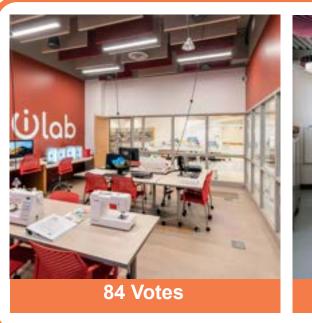
#### **TOP 3 RESULTS**

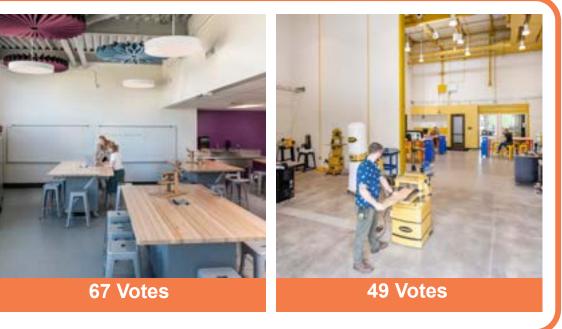


#### **MAKER & TECHNOLOGY**

What would you envision for a maker/technology space at South County Library?







#### TAKEAWAYS:

• Participants expressed strong support for spaces that accommodate both advanced technology and traditional crafts. They envision areas dedicated to activities like makerspaces, sewing, and other group-focused endeavors. This approach facilitates that users of all ages and skill levels can participate in a wide range of library programming.

CAPSTONE WORKSHOP RESULTS

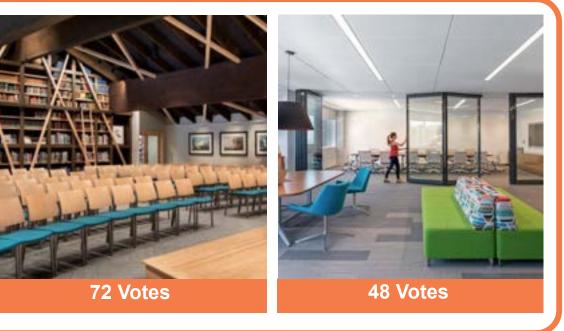
#### **TOP 3 RESULTS**

#### **GATHERING**

What would you envision for gathering space(s) at South County Library?



# 80 Votes



#### TAKEAWAYS:

• Participants identified the greatest need for gathering spaces as those designed for communityfocused events. Additionally, they emphasized the importance of areas for educational activities and presentations.

CAPSTONE WORKSHOP RESULTS

#### **TOP 3 RESULTS**

#### **STUDY**

What would you envision for study space(s) at South County Library?

3

35

3

70

3



- Medium Meeting
- "NEEDS TO ACCOMMODATE AT LEAST 20 CURRENT BOOK CLUB HAS 20-25 PEOPLE
- "STUDY ROOMS AWAY FROM CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS - NOISE"
- "HAVE ROOMS RESERVED ONLINE"
- "IDEALLY, PERHAPS SEVERAL SMALL MEETING ROOMS AND THE REST EITHER LARGE OR MEDIUM SPACES?" 2
- Small Meeting
  - Social Booth

Private Booths

- "THESE KINDS OF SPACES ARE VERY POPULAR @ BELMAR & COLUMBINE-BUT MAYBE THEY SHOULD BE RESERVABLE"
- "GLASS-ENCLOSED AND SOUNDPROOF"
- "SMALLER STUDY SPACES ARE BETTER BECAUSE SINGLE PERSON WILL MONOPOLIZE ALL THE SPACE AT THE LARGE TABLE. SHARING IS AWKWARD"

#### **TOP 3 RESULTS**



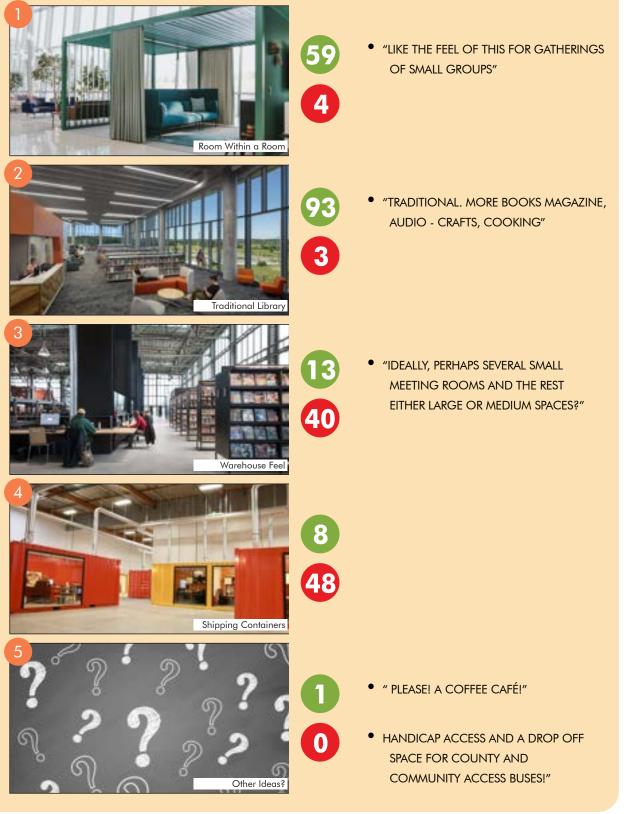
#### TAKEAWAYS:

• Participants had diverse views on study spaces for the new South County Library. To meet the varied needs and preferences of the community, a range of spaces in different sizes and environments, both enclosed and open, will need to be developed. This approach provides everyone with the potential to find a suitable space for their study and work needs.

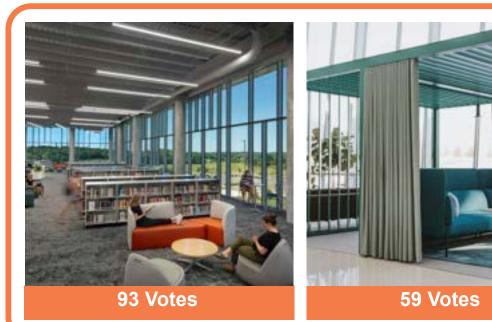


#### WAREHOUSE SPACE

# What would you envision the warehouse space at South County Library?



#### **TOP 3 RESULTS**



#### **TAKEAWAYS:**

• Participants felt that the best use of the large warehouse space was to incorporate a conventional library spaces within it. This could be achieved through large open areas or a "room within a room" concept. Most participants were not supportive of industrial or shipping container design styles, which were seen as sterile preferring a warmer library atmosphere.

