GIBSONVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Space Needs and Building Program

Growing Together

Connecting people to quality information, opportunities, the world, and each other to foster community, discovery, and compassion.

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Gibsonville Public Library: Space Needs and Building Program

As part of a Federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Grant administered through the State Library of North Carolina, a space needs and building program was developed for Gibsonville Public Library.

The program is based on the consultants' observation of library activities, a complete tour of the existing facility, meetings with the Library Director and staff, Town Council members, the Town Manager, and a series of input meetings with partners/stakeholders as well as the community at large.

The Gibsonville Public Library Strategic Plan and the Aspen Institute guides for library design were major influences in the recommended design of the public spaces.

The new library will be a strong foundation for a fast-growing community. It will provide a welcoming and comfortable place for early literacy, reading, study, educational support, exploration, and engagement. It will become a community destination for gathering and public meetings. It will be a place for art displays, and creativity. It will be a place for lifelong learning and a cornerstone in the continuing evolution of the town of Gibsonville.

Land and People

The town of Gibsonville straddles both Alamance and Guilford counties. Most of Gibsonville is situated in the Greensboro-Winston-Salem-High Point Combined Statistical Area while the eastern portion lies in the Burlington, North Carolina Metropolitan Statistical Area. The town proper is approximately 3.63 square miles.

Tremendous growth is happening in Gibsonville. From 2010 to 2020 the population of the town increased by nearly 40%--from 6,410 to 8,920 (39.2%). Current population projections put the total number of citizens at approximately 9,425. It is projected that within the next ten years that the population of Gibsonville could again grow by another approximately 40%. In December of 2021, the Alamance News reported that more than 1,788 additional housing units were currently planned or currently under construction. Much of this growth comes from people moving into the area to work in Greensboro, High Point, Winston-Salem, and Burlington. As of September 2022, city planning has approved 2,000 housing units that will be built within the next 5 years. By 2042 the population of Gibsonville will approach 20,000 residents.

The median age of the population in Gibsonville is 41.5 years which is a little older than the median age for North Carolina (38.9 years). The median income in Gibsonville is also

increasing with a median of $77,500. The North Carolina median is $56,642. At the same time, the poverty rate is decreasing and is currently 9.4%. The North Carolina median is 14%.   Median property values are also increasing and are currently at $181,400.

Current Library Evaluation

The current library building is approximately 2,400 square feet, and was originally built in the 1920s as the home economics department of Gibsonville High School. It was designed with a parlor, a kitchen, and a sewing/classroom area. In the 1980's this former school building was rented to the Town of Gibsonville to become the town library. It has served in this capacity with the same arrangement with the school system for more than 40 years.

Because of the building's age and its original design, it lacks the infrastructure and many of the amenities that are required for a modern public library. As a part of the review of facilities by the library consultants tasked with conducting a facility plan—along with community, stakeholder, staff, and leadership input--the deficiencies of the current facility in serving as a modern community library are outlined here.

Parking

Parking space is insufficient for library use, with approximately 6-8 spaces available for staff and library visitors located behind and to the side of building. There is no pedestrian path from the parking area to the library entrance. Visitors must walk up the drive, which is used for library, school, and sporting event traffic. Only one handicapped space is available--in the lawn at the front of the building. Parking space is shared with other venues, and customers frequently are left without a space to park--circling the building, parking elsewhere, or leaving.

Library Architecture, Signage, Grounds, Entrance Foyer

Exterior library signage is minimal, and the library is not readily identifiable from a distance. The library lacks appealing landscaping and opportunity for outdoor programming. The facility lacks a conveniently accessible materials return.

The library entrance foyer is a small airlock space used for a community cupboard and book giveaway space. It is very crowded and quite tight for simultaneous customer use, with customers often experiencing bottlenecks entering and exiting. It is likely too tight for use by those who require a wheelchair or other assistance.

Collections Space

There is a lack of space for current and future collections of all types. Shelving is full but not over-flowing due to extensive weeding and a necessary no-growth collection policy currently in place. The lack of space makes it impossible for the library's collection to expand to meet the needs of Gibsonville's growing population.   For every item added an item must be discarded in order to make room on the shelf. Audiovisual collections are stored in the narrow hallway adjacent to the single restroom. There is insufficient space for creating adequate collections, inviting and accessible browsing options, face out display, and other specialized shelving and display options.

Restrooms

Restroom access is insufficient for the library--there is only one, non-ADA compliant, single toilet restroom available for public use.

Accessibility

The facility has poor collection accessibility due to shelving height and insufficient aisle spacing. Shelving should be at least 42 inches apart for ease of use by wheelchair bound citizens.

Top and bottom shelves are full and difficult for general use and unusable by those with physical limitations.

General movement throughout the building is also an accessibility issue due to tight spacing and crowded furnishings.

Additionally, the emergency exit is a steep set of steps to the rear of the building. Should a fire break out in the front of the building, handicapped citizens may not be able to negotiate the rear exit.

Public Services Spaces

The public services spaces are quite small for community use, with insufficient spaces available for reading, studying, working, researching, collaborating, and general use of resources and services--which can create noise and privacy issues.

There is minimal flexibility in public use space, and aisles between shelving are narrow. There is not space for designated group work or quiet study areas.

Lighting, both natural and electrical, is minimal. Outlets for charging mobile technologies are not readily available, and there is insufficient space for computer stations, which are tucked into closet spaces or other shared use spaces.

Several spaces, including new materials, refreshments, audiovisual, and others, are in shared spaces that frequently create bottlenecks and/or require careful navigation.
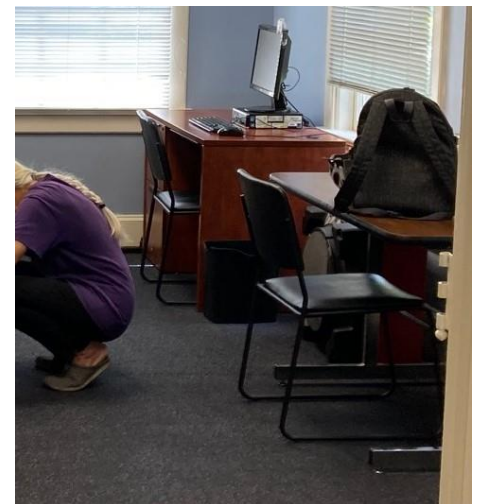
Comfortable Seating

Varied and comfortable seating is considerably insufficient. No comfortable lounge seating is found within the main library.

Available seating is task seating for a limited number of work and/or computer stations.

There is inadequate seating for children as well, and there is no seating for quiet study/work.

Children's and Teen Spaces

Vibrant and welcoming children's spaces should be one of the hallmarks of a modern library. The library's children's space is significantly lacking—it is very small and cramped, with inadequate seating, and no play and learning space.

It lacks space for literacy learning tools and educational resources, as well as for early learning technologies. The space should be segregated from adult areas, but is often used by adults seeking space not available elsewhere in the library.

To attract and offer services to enhance learning and exploration for young adults, a modern library needs a dedicated space for teens to meet, collaborate, study, read, and use technology and other learning resources. There is currently no dedicated teen space in the library, nor any room to create one.

Quiet and Collaborative Work and Study Spaces

No designated quiet study/work areas or group collaborative spaces exist within the library. Tutoring and quiet study—and group work-- must be done in the meeting room only when it is not in use for other programming, meetings, or events—or transpire in common spaces without privacy. Availability of the meeting room space is limited due to its many competing functions, including staff meeting space, storage, collection space, and programming.

Service Points

The circulation desk and children's desk are made up from office furniture that fits in the libraries limited spaces, but is not designed for the purpose. They are ergonomically deficient and uncomfortable for the tasks, and are not optimal for adequate customer service and work functions.
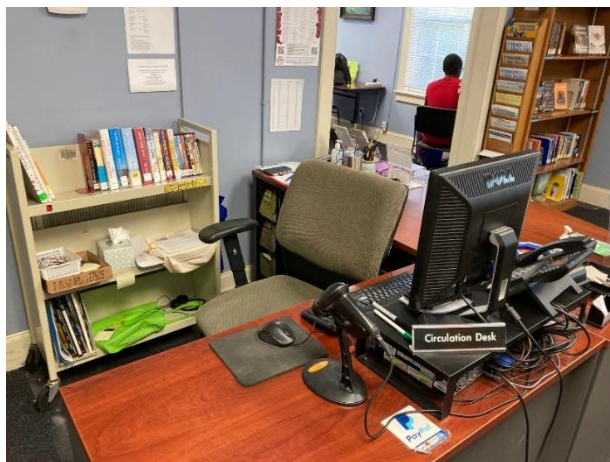
Meeting Spaces

The single small meeting room is a combination of many things. It is used as a public use meeting space, staff use meeting space, staff kitchen/workspace, a storage area, a programming area, and a study area.

It doesn't serve any of these functions well because it is overcrowded and used for non-complimentary and competing functions. It is also of insufficient size for most medium to larger size community programming and events, such as author talks or educational programs.

There are no small group study/meeting spaces readily available for the community to use for study, group projects, tutoring, or business and career development opportunities.

Community Technology Use/Technology Infrastructure

There are insufficient outlets for public-use device charging, and limited space for public computing whether with library provided technology or for use with customer-owned devices. Much of the wiring within the facility lacks grounding. There is also limited network wiring/equipment space. There is also no space for emerging technologies, a makerspace, or audiovisual/STEM learning and exploration space for the community.

Staff Workspaces

Staff workspace is significantly lacking as well. Only one workspace is non-public, which is the director's office. This space is necessarily also used as a workroom, staff breakroom, and storage space. There is no mail/package receiving or sorting area, or Friends of the library work/storage space.

Staff must exit the building to retrieve returned materials and incoming mail and deliveries. The staff entrance to the rear of building is inconvenient with steep stoop style stairs.

There is no suitable maintenance/janitorial space. There is inadequate staff work, storage, and break space overall.

Facility Condition Overall

To use the outside book return, the customer must drive on the wrong side of the drive or exit the vehicle. Staff must exit the building to retrieve materials from this book return.

The facility lacks an open design with line of sight that would be optimal for overview of customers and activities throughout the building—especially with the limited staffing levels for the library. There are limited window/views to exterior spaces.

The popular community pantry space in the entry foyer is quite small and limited for potential community use. The book bike mobile service is stored in the main area of the library, adding to crowding.

There is no gallery or display space, and there is not adequate space for refreshments.

There is no designated delivery or materials sorting area, and staff must often go outside to retrieve mail and deliveries, which is not only inconvenient, but more significant an issue in inclement weather.

Library Trends and Methodology

One of the most important public needs is often referred to as lifelong learning. In a 2009 report, the institute of Museum Services reported, "All libraries and museums--and the people they serve--stand to benefit from becoming more intentional and purposeful about accommodating the lifelong learning needs of people in the 21st Century and doing this work collaboratively in alignment of community needs.   Libraries of the 21st century and beyond must explore new ways of providing lifelong learning. These needs have changed substantially in the recent past and are continuing to change today."

In 2015 the Aspen Institute published the report *Rising to the Challenge—Re-Envisioning Public Libraries.* This report advocates for libraries to work to level the playing field of the knowledge economy, so that anyone, regardless of race, class, or gender, can enter. This report challenges libraries to focus on lifelong learning as necessary to help develop skills as knowledge creators, not simply information consumers. This mere statement opens the library up to a great number of possibilities.

In the past, public libraries served primarily as book and media warehouses. Library facilities were largely designed along a transactional model, where the library stored materials and circulated materials to the public. In the mid to late 1990's with the advent of the Internet, public libraries expanded into the area of providing public computing. Collection space, storage space, and many other areas were commandeered to provide this service. In several locations throughout North Carolina closets have turned into computer stations, staff space reduced, study space reduced and collection space reduced. This practice of converting existing space often led to overcrowding and uncomfortable spaces. Older library buildings often suffered the worst. This is the case with the near century old building that serves as the library for the town of Gibsonville.

Very often these facilities lacked adequate wiring for the heavy demand that the provision of public Internet/Computing services require. Many of these facilities also are not easily reconfigured due to load bearing walls, etc. So is the case with the Gibsonville Public Library.

Reference collections were greatly reduced due to the rapid emergence of online resources, and a concurrent need for more varied and flexible spaces for emerging collections, technology use, community gathering, and quiet as well as collaborative workspaces.

In addition to the significant changes that libraries underwent to provide computer services, a new and equally radical change has begun with the advent of e-books and e-media. Many libraries are providing these services throughout their public service areas. These services allow libraries to provide access to resources beyond their walls as well. Such is the case with the

Gibsonville Public Library. Services such as Hoopla and NC-Live expand the reach of the library and provide valuable resources to the community from wherever they are.

Not unlike the 1990's, public libraries in 2022 are again experiencing sudden changes in public expectations and service models. Makerspaces and demonstration areas are becoming common, as are outdoor learning and programming spaces. Drive up windows for convenience and isolation due to the pandemic are also in demand. These changes and many more will shape the Gibsonville library facility in the future. It is of utmost importance that library facilities be designed so they can be flexible with changing expectations.

The methodology of this report is a hybrid that includes formulaic sizes for buildings, based on collections, technology, seating, and general programming—along with community input that demonstrates needs and service outcomes rather than just square feet per service.

Hearing from Community Members, Stakeholders, Staff

In July and August 2022, the consultants met with library director Jessica Arnold, along with key staff, to discuss their facility wants and needs for a new library. Additionally, a survey was posted on the library website and made available in the library.

From August through October 2022, community input was collected from a series of meetings with town leadership (Including Aldermen, the Mayor, Town Manager, City Clerk, and City Building Consultant). Targeted focus group input sessions were also held

with community stakeholders and partners, including the First Baptist Church members, Faith Baptist Church Members, the Homeschool Association, and the Gibsonville Merchants Association. Finally, a broadly marketed public community focus group gathered additional input from community members.
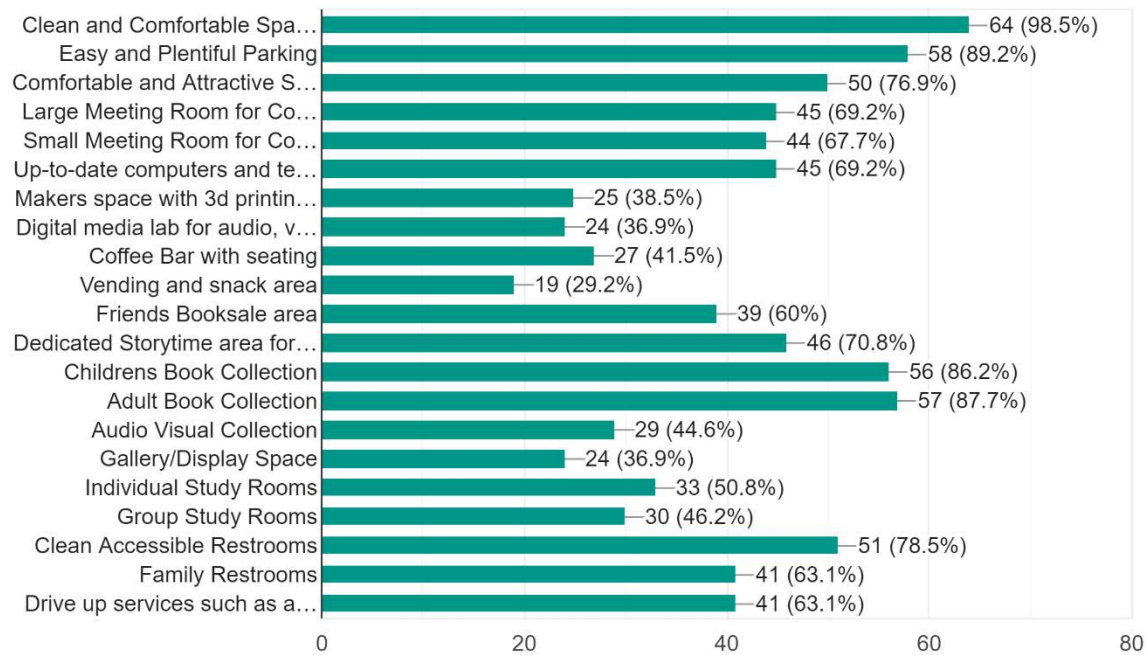
Outside of these in-person sessions, surveys seeking input about the current facility and needs for a new library were completed by 75 community members across the community, both online and in the library, with 86 percent of respondents having an active library card, 52 percent residing within city limits, and 52 percent using the library quite frequently—from a few times a month, once a week, and up to a few times a week.

Areas the community most recognized as in need of improvement included: space for adult and children's computers and technology, landscaping, space for teen computers and technology, overall condition of the facility, accessible restrooms, space for collections, space for programs and community meetings, individual and group study/workspaces, comfortable seating, lighting, and parking.

Community members indicated library features that were important to them--with clean and comfortable spaces, easy and plentiful parking, and adult and children's book collections at the top; followed by clean and accessible restrooms, comfortable and attractive seating, dedicated story time area for children, up to date computers, and large and small meeting rooms for community use.

In your mind imagine the perfect library. Then mark the following features that make that library perfect to you.

65 responses

Feature	Count (%)
Clean and Comfortable Spa…	64 (98.5%)
Easy and Plentiful Parking	58 (89.2%)
Comfortable and Attractive S…	50 (76.9%)
Large Meeting Room for Co…	45 (69.2%)
Small Meeting Room for Co…	44 (67.7%)
Up-to-date computers and te…	45 (69.2%)
Makers space with 3d printin…	25 (38.5%)
Digital media lab for audio, v…	24 (36.9%)
Coffee Bar with seating	27 (41.5%)
Vending and snack area	19 (29.2%)
Friends Booksale area	39 (60%)
Dedicated Storytime area for…	46 (70.8%)
Childrens Book Collection	56 (86.2%)
Adult Book Collection	57 (87.7%)
Audio Visual Collection	29 (44.6%)
Gallery/Display Space	24 (36.9%)
Individual Study Rooms	33 (50.8%)
Group Study Rooms	30 (46.2%)
Clean Accessible Restrooms	51 (78.5%)
Family Restrooms	41 (63.1%)
Drive up services such as a…	41 (63.1%)

Community members also ranked which features were most essential for a modern library, with similar results: clean and comfortable spaces, children's and adult book collections, up to date technology, easy and plentiful parking, and a dedicated story time area ranking most essential.

Now, please indicate how essential each of these features is in a modern public library.
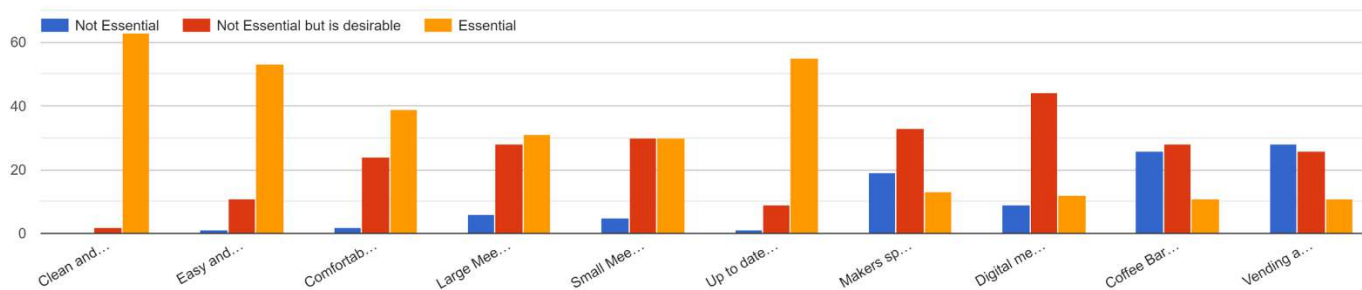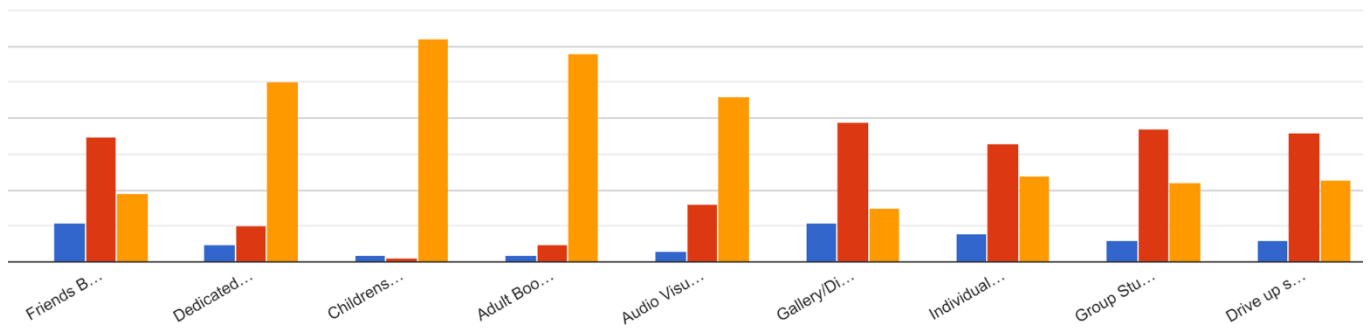
What the Library Means to Me…Hearing from Community Members

We know that Gibsonville residents highly value their Library and recognize it as a vital part their community and their quality of life. In their own words, "What the library means to me…"

"Everything. It's our community, our school resource, our place to learn and grow…"

"It's the center of our community, our foundation."

"…It's a quiet safe place for me to study and bring my son to check out all the books he loves."

When my husband and I moved to the area in late 2019, the library was one of the first buildings I located and visited. It is such an amazing resource…"

"Besides checking out books, it means community, a place to connect with my neighbors."

The library is one of the few places left that are free and open to everyone…"

A compilation of the needs and wants expressed by the citizens of Gibsonville, the Library Staff, Town Aldermen and Leadership, and community partners and stakeholders:

- A handicapped accessible, one-story, open-span building with flexible, easily changeable spaces
- A highly convenient location where people would see the library as they go about their everyday activities
- A beautiful, inviting entrance with natural light
- Art gallery/display space
- Displays for books and media
- Comfortable and plentiful seating throughout the library
- Technology/Makerspaces with a video and sound production area
- Multi-function spaces/meeting rooms with a separate entrance and demonstration/catering kitchen
- Small study spaces for 4-6 people each
- A dedicated, welcoming young adult area
- An inviting, interactive children's space
- Book bins to display children's picture books
- A parent/family space to encourage parent and child book sharing
- A dedicated place for community gathering and refreshments
- A convenient and accessible drive through pick up and materials return
- Efficient and functional workspace for staff
- A staff room with kitchenette, lockers, and staff bathroom
- Abundant electrical receptacles for community and library use
- Mobile shelving with wide aisles and no bottom shelves on the floor
- Sufficient storage for library services and operations
- Comfortable natural and artificial lighting
- A community cupboard and give away area
- Patio with outside reading and programming spaces adjacent to the meeting rooms

Recommendation for a One-Story, Open Span Facility

There are many advantages of locating basic library services on one open-span level.

- Easy and universal access to all materials can exist if they are all on one level.
- Convenience is also important. Services on one level are easily seen when entering most one-story library facilities.
- Staff needs are less demanding in one-story facilities. Fewer staff members are required in one-story facilities versus multi-story facilities due to line of sight and sharing of service areas--allowing for enhanced efficiency and more flexible, responsive customer service.
- Although still necessary, security needs are less in a one-story facility if it is designed in such a way that all activities and spaces can be monitored from a central service area or through multiple service points.
- Universal Design can optimally be employed, meaning that the library building and services are designed for the broadest range of abilities, disabilities, and other customer characteristics, such as age, reading ability, learning style, language, culture, and more. This focus creates a welcoming environment and maximizes accessibility for all and minimizes the need for special accommodations, helping ensure that all community members can get to the library and maneuver within it, communicate effectively with staff, access resources, and fully participate in programming.
- In open span buildings, spaces can be designated with clear and visible signage, as well as with variations in carpeting color and patterns, paint colors, and mobile furnishings to create maximum flexibility in use.

Recommendations and Building Size Requirements

In this section the space for materials, seating, staff services, meeting use, makers space and all uses of the library are converted into square footage requirements for the building.

After thorough examination, the consultants recommend a facility within a size range from 15,690 to 16,092 sq. ft. The lower number in the range allows for less non-assignable space, 17%. The higher number in the range allows for 20% non-assignable space. 13,410 sq. ft. is the assignable space described within this plan.

Non-Assignable Space

Non-assignable space is required for arrival space, walls, halls, heating, ventilating and air conditioning, risers, restrooms, and non-library storage. Designs differ in the amount of space for non-assignable functions. A high percentage of non-assignable space may make the building more spacious, welcoming, and attractive. However, the cost can be higher. A low percentage of non-assignable space may accommodate more function, but it will make the building seem crowded. 17%-20% are the normal ranges.

21st Century Library Spaces

In modern 21st Century Library models, library buildings can be broken down into types of spaces based on use. The consultant recommends including many of Margaret Sullivan Studio's best practice recommendations from *Public Library Facilities for the Future.* Sullivan's work emerged from the Aspen Institute's *Rising to the Challenge—Re-Envisioning Public Libraries Report* focusing on the library's role and value as built around three key assets for the community: People, Place, and Platform.

Welcome Station

In the model created by Margaret Sullivan Studios, the first interior area proposed is the "Welcome Station". The Sullivan model recommends 900 sq. ft. for small libraries and up to 1500 sq. ft. for larger libraries. Although Sullivan does not include staff areas or a public art area in the model, the consultants recommend that these two areas be included as part of the Welcome Station concept. The consultants' recommendation for each area follows in the table below.

The Welcome Station in this program includes the Vestibule/Foyer and the public portion of Public Service Area (Circulation). In addition, this area will serve as a community gallery. The design of this area must allow the main library to be locked off from the meeting rooms. A design concept preferably allows the restrooms to be entered from this area, thus allowing meeting room use when the library proper is closed.

Vestibule/Foyer

Furnishings	Square Feet
1 Lighted Display Case	50
6 Mobile Grid Wall Display Gondolas	300
1 Public Bulletin Board/Video Display	n/a
Dual Aisle Theft Detection System	50
Mop Closet and Janitorial Storage	150
Public Restrooms (non-assignable)	TBD by Architect
Total	**550**

Public Service Area: Circulation

Furnishings	Square Feet
1 Self-Check-out Stations	40
2 Staff Check- out Stations (Service Desk)	100
2 Book Returns ideally designed to allow materials to drop into the book drop room/drive through	100
Book Cart Storage	60
Holds/Reserve Shelving	100
Staff Work Room/Sorting Area	200
Supply Storage Closet	90
Staff Locker Area	50
Staff Restrooms (non-assignable)	n/a
Director's office	125
Total	**865**

Drive Through Pick Up / Book Drop Room/Circulation Work Room

In discussions with the staff and public, a desire for drive through service was expressed frequently. It is desirable that this area adjoin or be included in the circulation workroom. Sullivan does not provide guidance in this area. Considering Gibsonville community requests, current and potential future needs for enhanced service outside the building, and successful models state and nationwide, the consultants highly recommend the inclusion of this model.

Furnishings	Square Feet
2 exterior, through the wall, fireproof book drops	100
Drive Through Window Station w/2 computer workstations (check in/check out)	120
Shelving for Sorting	70
4 collection bins	Included w/book drops
2 interior book drops	100
6 book carts	75
Total	**465**

Public Service Area: Books and Materials Shelving

Books and materials shelving take up a significant amount of space in modern library facilities. Space requirements are based on desired collection capacity. The number of volumes that can be stored in each space can vary from 5 to 25 volumes per square foot, depending on several factors: the height of the shelving, width of the aisles, and the types of material (reference vs. children's books).

For stack arrangements with aisles, a general average of 10 volumes per square foot permits maximum flexibility, allows for face-out display, and minimizes the number of books placed on difficult-to-reach top and bottom shelves--while also leaving adequate space on each shelf for years.

Formula for Books: To estimate the square feet of space needed to house the library book collections with aisles, the total projected collection is divided by 10.

Formula for Nonprint Materials (Videos, Books on Tape, CD-ROM's, Music CDs, Audiocassettes, etc.): To estimate the square feet of space needed to house these library collections, the total projected collection is divided by 10. It is desirable that mobile shelving be considered due to the flexibility it allows for easy reorganization.

Gibsonville library currently has a collection of approximately 13,000 items (1.42 items per capita) which is significantly less than the state average of 2.39 items per capita. The current shelving would be insufficient if all library materials that are out were returned. In that scenario books would be stacked throughout the aisles. This plan will allow for the collection to grow to more than 46,000 items in 20 years.

Public Service Area: Seating

Seating is based on population and activity. The usual ratio is five seats per thousand people within the demographic service area. Seating includes all seating except for meeting room and can include a variety of single and group as well as booth, bench, combined carrel/table seating arrangements, etc.

To determine seating space, these sizes were used:
Table seat   30 sq. ft.
Carrel and Seat   35/40 sq. ft.
Computer Workstation   40 sq. ft.
Lounge Seating 40 sq. ft.
Meeting Room Seating as follows:
10 sq. ft. is suitable for a banquet hall, institution, or closed seating.
20 sq. ft. for banquet seating

Meeting Spaces, Including Group Study Rooms

Capacity of meeting spaces was determined in consultation with the staff based on the library's mission, program attendance, and community needs.   Auditorium seating is 10 sq. ft. per person. Table and banquet seating are based on table capacity at 20 sq. ft. per person. Meeting Room and Group Study Rooms are calculated as part of the seating totals but represent a completely different section.

Staff Workspaces, Including Storage

All non-public areas in which staff carry out library functions is classified as staff workspace, and includes space for workstations, collaborative work and seating, carts, shelving, and storage of materials and supplies.

With the advent of Aspen Institute Study and the current best practice design guidelines developed by Margaret Sullivan Studios, many of these areas of space have been renamed. In addition, Sullivan does not provide specific recommendations for space, but instead provides recommended ranges. The consultants have created a hybrid model that includes both traditional and Sullivan descriptions of library spaces with more specific recommendations for space needs. In some cases, such as staff lounges, etc., Sullivan does not describe the area. In this case the consultants rely on the traditional model to include and account for these essential spaces.

Staff Lounge

Although Sullivan makes no space recommendations related to staff areas, the consultants recommend a staff lounge be included in the architectural plan to maximize support for staff meal, casual sharing/collaboration, and break time. The lounge should be accessible only from staff areas. It is recommended that the access should be from the staff work room. It is also desirable that this area has windows to the outside.

Furnishings	Square Feet
2 café tables with 2 chairs each	100
1 Vending machine	35
Refrigerator	35
Stove w/overhead microwave	35
Counter with Sink	50
Couch	70
Total	**325**

Vibrant Café

In Sullivan's model, one interior area depicted is the "Vibrant Cafe". The model recommends 500 sq. ft. for small libraries and up to 750 sq. ft. for larger libraries. The consultants recommend 500 sq. ft. dedicated to vending and the community food sharing service due to likely staffing and use limitations. This area should be located near the front entrance or near adult services area. Location shall be dictated by consultation between the architect and the library staff.

Vibrant Café/Vending Area

Furnishings	Square Feet
2 café tables with 3 stools each	150
2 Vending machines	100
1 coffee bar with Keurig or similar for vending with under cabinet storage Upper cabinets for community sharing program	250
Total	**500**

Multi-Purpose Meeting Rooms

In the Sullivan model, the meeting room spaces are named "multi-Purpose Rooms", without a recommended size. The consultants' recommendation is for one meeting room with a demonstration/catering kitchen to be included in the new library with a minimum total of 1,100 sq. ft. The demonstration/catering kitchen should be situated with a divider so that it can be used both for demonstration and catering purposes. In addition, video cameras shall be configured in such a way as to project demonstrations on to a large screen. The larger meeting room will seat 75 in auditorium style seating and approximately 35 with tables. It is recommended to provide access to the meeting room/kitchen spaces adjacent to the foyer/vestibule area, so that these spaces can be used when the main library is closed. Separate zones or HVAC and burglar/security alarms are required for this area to operate independently from the main library.

Furnishings	Square Feet
Meeting Rooms	750
75 stackable chairs	
10 folding tables	
Podium	
Sound System	
Ceiling mounted projector	
Wall mounted projection screen	
Shared Space	
Demonstration/Catering Kitchen with mobile divider	200
Small Meeting Room for 35 (Locate near the children's section)	350
Table, Chair, Grid-wall Storage	150
Total	**1450**

Children's Area

This area shall serve as a destination for children and families. It should include features that are uniquely child oriented. 21st century spaces for children will optimally include brightly coordinated colors and designs, with inviting and welcoming zones for a variety of ages and interests, including hands-on interactive early learning spaces and manipulatives, ample early literacy technologies, designated family restroom space, and potential small programming space with storage for supplies.

It is important to include designated spaces for both quiet, reflective time as well as for teaching, group work or interactive collaborative experiences--often times architectural nooks or specialized furnishings can help with this concept.

Mobile furnishings are recommended to help define flexible spaces for specific ages and interests and can be complemented by graphic signage to enhance the design and make spaces easy to use. Seating can be less conventional than what might be used for other library spaces, and sight lines are important for adults to monitor and interact with children.

The consultants recommend that the library hire a designer for this area that specializes in library design for children. The designer will work with the architect to create the most desirable and vibrant space.

It is important the Children's area be near the meeting room, as children's programming will often be held in the meeting facility. It is desirable that this area be distant from the adult collections and any quiet spaces.

In Sullivan's work, most of the Children's area would be described as a part of popular collections. The consultants have included those areas as well as activity and staff space below.

Children's Area

Furnishings	Square Feet
Service Desk	80
Staff Work Room	150
Shelving for 18400 items	1840
2 Board Book Bins	100
Computer Area (5 stations)	200
2 Toddler Tables 4 chairs	100
2 Elementary Age Tables 4 chairs	100
Lounge Seating for 6	240
Sprawl Space/Program Space or separate story-time area	200
Manipulatives	100
Materials Storage Area/Closet	100
Family Bathroom (non-assignable)	
Total	**3210**

Quiet Rooms / Individual and Group Study Spaces
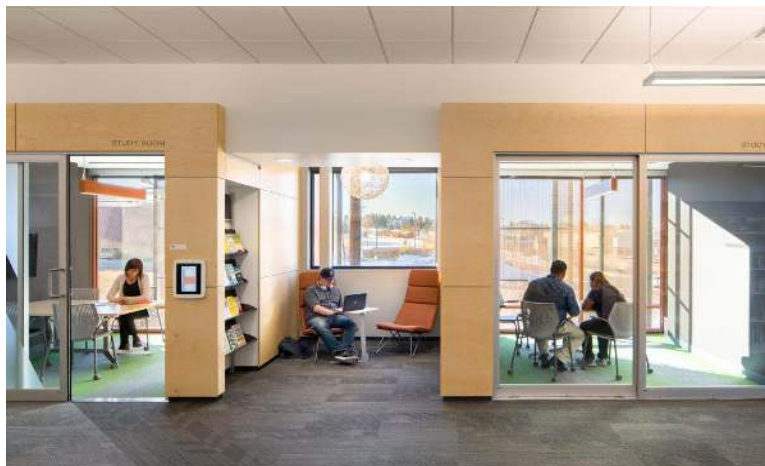
In the Sullivan model, individual and group study/work rooms can be considered quiet rooms and/or part of the business and career center. These are an important part of modern library design that best accommodate the community's need for both active and vibrant collaborative community spaces as well as for quiet research, work, study, and reflective reading spaces. These rooms can be used for tutoring, group projects, quiet study, community work, workforce development activities, and business consultation. The larger rooms could also be used for small community group meetings. These rooms should be located near the adult collection and distant from the Children's and Public Service areas.

Furnishings	Square Feet
2 Group Study Rooms for up to 6 people	360
Furnishings	
Table and 6 office chairs x 2	
White Board	
2 Study Rooms suitable for 2-3 people each	160
2 tables or desks	
4 office chairs	
Total	**520**

Maker Space/Technology Arts Lab

Makerspaces in libraries are transformative spaces that inspire and empower community members to create, collaborate, and innovate--and learn new skills that foster interest and contribute to STEAM career pathways. Sullivan recommends 250 to 500 sq. ft. for this maker space/tech arts lab. The consultants recommend 500 sq. ft. to accommodate newer technologies and space uses. It is also important that this area be near the Circulation desk or Reference mobile workstation, so that monitoring and assistance can be provided easily.

Furnishings	Square Feet
Worktable	180
White Board and Gaming Monitors	n/a
5 workstations (3-D Printer) (Vinyl Cutting Machine) (Stop Frame Animation/Coding/Virtual Reality Stations/Recording) (Sewing Station) at 50 sq. ft. per station	250
Additional Station	70
Material Storage (built in under worktable)	
Total	**500**

Popular Collections and Adult Area

Sullivan describes this area to include several potential spaces: Popular Collections, Community Living Room, Bookstore, and Business and Career Center. Traditional space formulas have been used to determine needed space for these areas. Here again, it is important to include designated spaces for collections as well as for both quiet, reflective time and for teaching, group work, and interactive collaborative experiences. It is essential to have a variety of flexible spaces that support community use and needs. Communities often use the concept of place-making to plan for a variety of amenities to entice and welcome new residents--libraries can use that model to design spaces that support a wide variety of activities and shared experiences unique to community needs and desires.

Furnishings	Square Feet
New Books and New A/V Display Shelving (500 volumes) 67" Display shelving * Face out display requires 3 times regular space.	150
Friends Booksale Shelving 67" inch shelving (500 volumes)	50
Shelving 67" shelving (23000 volumes) (not using top and bottom shelves)	2300
OPAC station Fiction Area 1	35
OPAC stations Non-Fiction Area 1	35
Study Table Seating Reference/ Non-fiction Area 4 Seats per table (3 tables)	450
Photocopier and wireless printing station	70
Dictionary/Atlas Stand	30
Periodicals and Newspapers Shelving: 67" periodical display shelving (12 items per double faced unit)	35
Lounge Seating for 16	640
Total	**3795**

Teen Space

It is important that teens have a welcoming and comfortable space of their own. Spaces for teens should have furnishings, equipment, and collections that are adaptive to their specific uses--optimally teens can be engaged in the planning and design. Teen spaces might include movable seating, tables, and collection shelving in a variety of configurations and styles--floor seating, booth seating, cushions, or bean bags, cafe tables, rolling shelves, technology stations-- that are adaptable to include computers, gaming, coding, virtual reality, sound/music stations, etc.

Sullivan recommends 750 to 1,000 sq. ft., and the consultant includes collection space in the recommended calculation. This space should not be located near the Children's area.

Furnishings	Square Feet
3 Computer Stations	150
Teen Book Collection 67" shelving (3600 items)	360
Hang-out Space with Cushion/Bean Bag chairs and/or booth type seating/gaming chairs (Seating for 3-5)	100
Bulletin Board/Gaming Monitors	n/a
2 lounge chairs	70
Total	**680**

Friends Booksale Storage/Workspace

Providing space for community members to support the library through efforts such as Friends of the Library Booksales and other volunteer initiatives is necessary to maintain the level of public engagement expected of the library.

Closet/Workspace	150
Total	**150**

Library of Things

Adequate space for housing non-traditional library materials (such as tools, small appliances, etc., known collectively as a "Library of Things") is an emerging and important part of a modern library facility.

3 Storage Cabinets	150
Total	**150**

## Book Bike Storage, and Mailroom/Loading Dock

It is desired that a loading dock be included that will serve as a place to receive and sort materials and mail. It will also be used as a storage area for the Book Bike and associated materials.

Dock	250
Total	**250**

Un-assigned Space/Partial List

To help guide the Architect, some of the spaces that are traditionally included in the un-assigned space are described below. They serve as a small portion of the unassigned space that will occur in a new library building. Other spaces include mechanical and electrical rooms, etc. Space needs for this area can range from 17% to 20% or more.

IT Wiring and Server Room
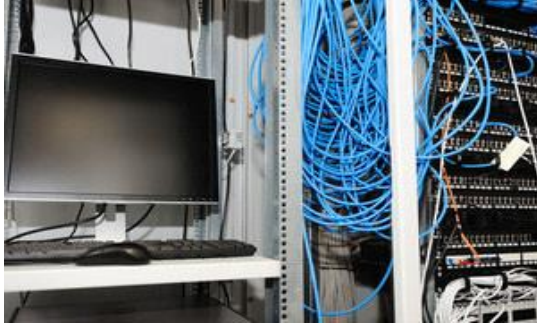
It is essential that space be provided for adequate computer/network wiring. All network wiring shall terminate in this room. It will also be the entrance point for the ISP. All electrical wiring will terminate in a separate designated room and the use of a raised floor is recommended.

Furnishings	Square Feet
Wiring Rack	
Server Rack	
Computer workstation	
Storage Shelving	
Total	

Fire Sprinkler and Security/Alarms Room

It is desired that this necessary space be located near the staff entrance to the facility.

Furnishings	Square Feet
Sprinkler System	
Fire Alarm and Security System	
Wiring Rack	
Total	

Janitorial/Mechanical Room

Furnishings	Square Feet
Janitorial Equipment	
HVAC	
Total	

Outdoor Spaces and Features

It is the desire of both the library staff and citizens to extend library services onto the library grounds. The following spaces are some that have been expressed as desirable.

The consultants will leave these space recommendations to the architect and/or the landscape architect in consultation with library management to determine how outdoor spaces can best align with library and community needs.

Furnishings
Story-time area
Patio off the meeting room
Community Demonstration Garden

This building program creates a foundational starting point for building a responsive and successful library facility for the town of Gibsonville. It is intended to be adaptable to library and community needs and architectural and design expertise. We recommend building on these findings and continuing to engage the community and stakeholders in developing momentum for what this 21st century library can be for the town of Gibsonville.
The consultants recognize the invaluable contributions of the dedicated library team, town leadership, and community members who shared input to help re-imagine the Gibsonville Public Library.

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Library Consultants