

WEST KILDONAN LIBRARY REVIEW

Phase 2 Public Engagement Summary



Background

West Kildonan Library was built in 1967. Improvements are required so the library can continue to meet the community's needs into the future.

The City assessed the building to understand what improvements are needed and how much they will cost. The review looked at:

- the site (including parking);
- the building condition;
- assessment of heritage elements;
- building code and accessibility compliance; and
- services and amenities.

Three improvement options were developed for the library building and site. A cost estimate was completed for each option.

Engagement

In engagement Phase 1, the City reached out to stakeholder organizations to gather early input. This input helped the City design three improvement options. More information is available in the [Phase 1 Stakeholder Engagement Summary](#).

In engagement Phase 2, residents and stakeholders were invited to provide feedback on the improvement options. An open house and survey gathered feedback on potential changes and whether they would meet the community's needs. The survey was available online and at the open house.

Table 1 provides an overview of all public engagement opportunities.

Promotion

Public engagement opportunities were promoted using the following methods:

- News release – December 18, 2023
- Posters at West Kildonan Library – December 18, 2023;
- Email to project subscribers – December 18, 2023
- Facebook posts with over 39,000 followers - December 18 & 29, 2023 and January 19, 2024;
- X posts with over 124,000 followers – December 18 & 29, 2023 and January 19, 2024;
- Over 4,300 postcards mailed to households – December 19, 2023;
- City of Winnipeg public engagement newsletter with over 5,300 recipients – January 2 & 16, 2024

Examples of promotional materials are included in Appendix A.



Image 1. Residents attend an open house.

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Table 1: Public Engagement Opportunities

Date	Activity	Details
December 18, 2023 – January 22, 2024	Webpage	Over 1,470 unique visitors
December 18, 2023 – January 22, 2024	Online survey	618 respondents
January 9, 2024	Open House	49 attendees

Key findings

Survey respondents were shown each option and asked if it would meet their/their family's needs into the future. Figures 1-3 show the responses. Option 3 had the largest percentage of respondents who strongly agreed (53%). The majority of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that all three design options would meet their needs into the future.

Figure 1: Will option 1 meet you and your family's needs into the future?
(595 responses)

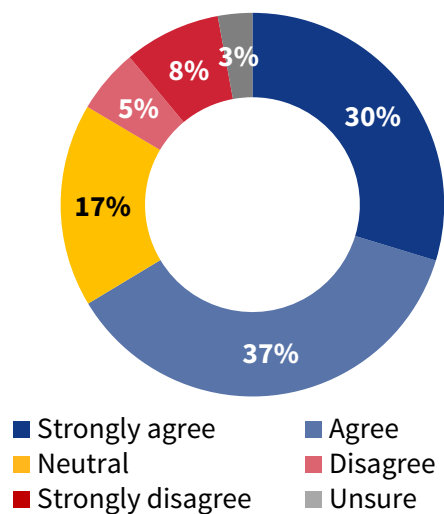
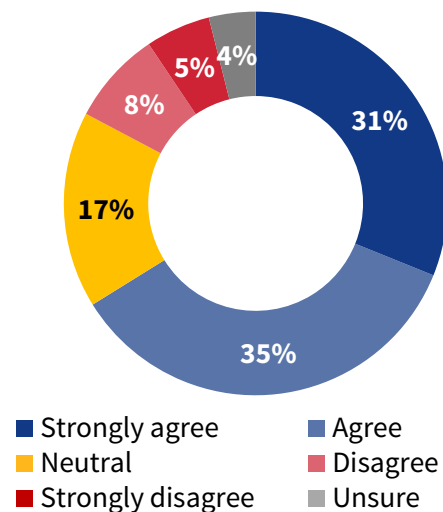


Figure 2: Will option 2 meet you and your family's needs into the future?
(585 responses)

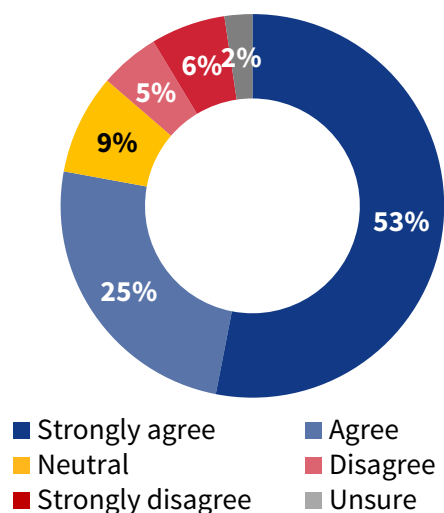


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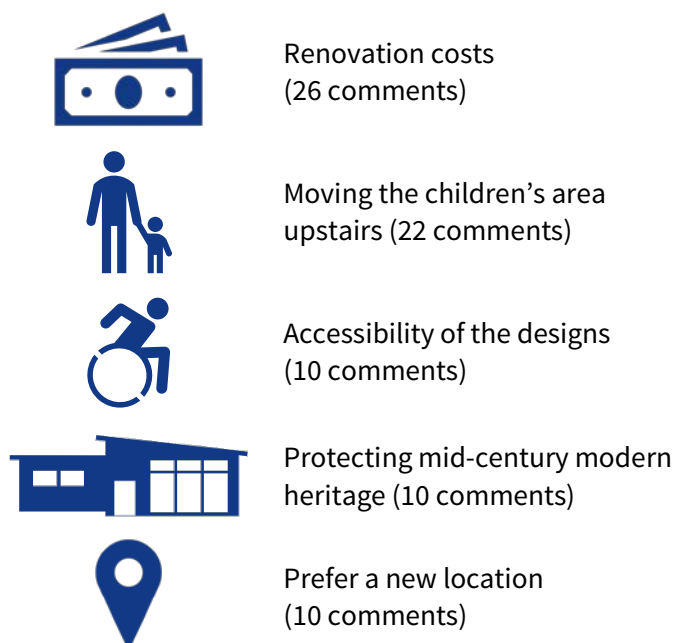
Figure 3: Will option 3 meet you and your family's needs into the future?
(556 responses)



Survey respondents were asked to rate their support for the new features proposed in Option 3. The new tutorial rooms had the most support from respondents (76%). Moving the computer area to the basement had the least support (36%).

New tutorial rooms	76%	Strongly supported or supported this change
New outdoor reading garden	74%	Strongly supported or supported this change
New meeting room	67%	Strongly supported or supported this change
Children's area moved to the main floor	54%	Strongly supported or supported this change
Computer area moved to the basement	36%	Strongly supported or supported this change

Survey respondents were asked if they had any concerns about the project. The top concerns were:



Detailed survey results and responses can be found in Appendix C.

Who we heard from

There was a total of 618 survey participants.

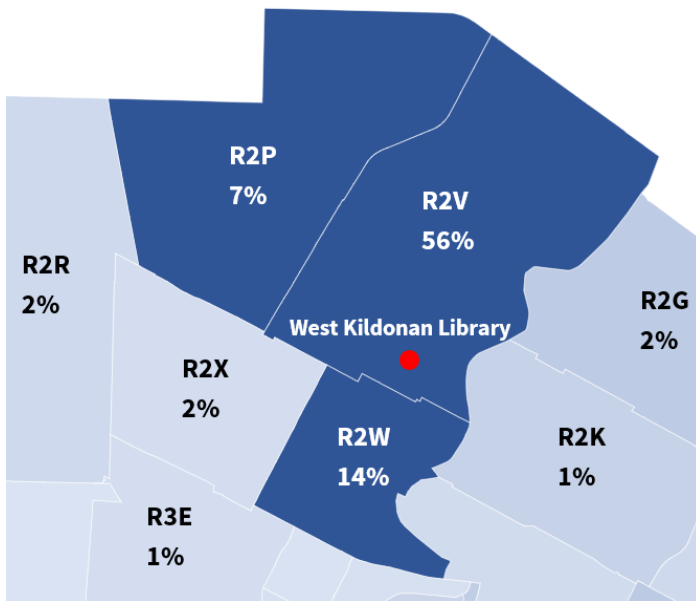
56% of survey respondents live in the **R2V** postal code
14% of survey respondents live in the **R2W** postal code
7% of survey respondents live in the **R2P** postal code

Figure 4 provides a map of respondents. **77%** of respondents (as noted by postal code above) live in the **Old Kildonan or Mynarski wards** in Winnipeg. The remaining 23% of respondents live in other wards or live outside of Winnipeg (3 respondents live outside Winnipeg).

Figure 4: Map of survey respondents

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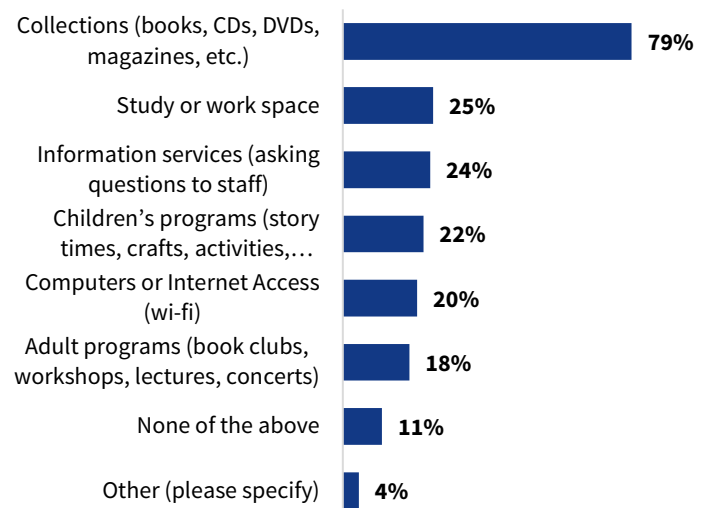
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Less than 1% of respondents were under 18 years old
20% of respondents were 18-34 years old
48% of respondents were 35-54 years old
30% of respondents were 55-74 years old
2% of respondents were 75+ years old

Participants were asked what services they use at West Kildonan Library. Collections (books, CDs, DVDs, magazines, etc.) were used most frequently (79% of respondents). Other services provided by the library were used relatively equally by respondents.

Figure 5: What services do you use at the West Kildonan Library? (Check all that apply)
(618 responses)



What we heard

Table 2 provides examples of feedback received and how it was considered.

Table 2: What we heard and how it was considered

What we heard	How it was considered
Children's area	
The children's area must not decrease in size.	Options 1 and 2 proposed keeping the children's area in the basement so the size of the area would remain unchanged in both of these options. In Option 3, the size of the proposed children's area has increased. The combined area of the proposed children's book section, seating area, literacy playground, and storytime room is larger in Option 3 than the existing children's space in the basement.
Moving the children's area upstairs with the adult's area will invite adults who shouldn't be in the children's area. Currently, only children and caregivers are allowed in the basement for safety reasons.	Options 1 and 2 propose keeping the children's area in the basement. In Option 3, the children's area is very visible from the circulation desk so this space can be monitored by staff.
The children's play area must be accessible to children with disabilities.	Options 1 and 2 include new barrier-free and universal washrooms in the basement next to the children's space. New children's bookshelves are proposed to increase the aisle space between shelves and to improve shelving heights. Doors are widened and automatic door operators are added. Option 2 also includes a new elevator to improve accessibility to the basement level children's area. Option 3 moves the children's area to the main floor, which reduces the need for elevator or stair use.
The children's area is currently uninviting. It's so important to move it to the main floor where it's bright, friendly, and accessible.	Option 3 moves the children's area to the main floor where there is more natural lighting.
Moving the children's area upstairs in Option 3 will increase noise and disruptions in the adult's area.	The children's area remains in the basement in Options 1 and 2. Option 3 includes an enclosed storytime area to that provides an acoustically separated 'noisy' zone for children. The reading playground could be moved within the enclosed children's space if required for acoustic separation.
Basement	

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What we heard	How it was considered
Moving the computers downstairs in Option 3 may encourage inappropriate use. Computers need a lot of supervision.	In Option 3, the computer workstations are positioned so that they are out in the open and highly visible. Additional programming in the basement will increase the number of visitors on this floor for natural surveillance. There will continue to be staff in the basement to assist and supervise computer use.
Computers in the basement would not have natural lighting. That makes it hard on the eyes.	Options 1, 2, and 3 propose new lighting throughout the building, which would improve lighting levels in the basement. In Option 3, existing windows openings in the basement are maintained near the new computer area to provide some natural lighting.
Two floor libraries tend to have more challenges with staffing. It would be nice to be able to have a single floor option, perhaps having staff/workroom areas in the basement.	The basement could be used by staff only, but this would require a reduction in public space within the library. For these reasons, this option was not considered. The main floor staff/workroom areas have been made smaller in all options. As many staff/workroom functions are move to the basement as possible.
Traffic and parking	
The library needs more parking.	All three options propose a new crosswalk on Powers Street to provide a safe connection from the library to the shared community centre parking. No additional parking is planned.
Secure bicycle parking is important. A bicycle maintenance area would be valuable to the community.	All three options maintain the existing bicycle racks on site, but do not include secure bicycle parking. Secure bicycle parking and a maintenance area could be considered as the design of the project progresses, subject to Council approval and funding.
Heritage elements	
Mid-century heritage needs to be respected and preserved during renovations.	The design will be subject to review by heritage experts at the City's Historical Buildings and Resources Committee. A heritage permit will be required before renovations begin. Option 3 proposes a new wood screen around the upper/clerestory roof and new cedar siding on the fascia to replace the existing painted boards. The columns will be painted white. These upgrades will help restore the exterior of the building to its original design.
The open concept of the main floor would be impacted by adding walls to house new tutorial rooms in Option 2.	The tutorial rooms in Option 2 are proposed to be constructed using adjustable walls, which can be removed in the future without any damage to the building. Glass demountable partitions can be used to maintain natural lighting throughout the library.
Outdoor reading garden / exterior	
The outdoor reading garden in Option 3 is too small.	The City will consider a larger reading area in later design stages if Option 3 moves forward.

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What we heard	How it was considered
Trees may be cut down if the library is expanded. The shady tree canopy and greenery is an important part of the library.	Option 1 has minimal impact on the existing trees on site. In Options 2 and 3, most of the existing trees on site are not impacted by the proposed additions. Only the trees in the northwest corner of the library (next to the staff parking stalls) would be impacted. Any trees cut down will be replaced with trees of equal value.
An all-year sunroom would make more sense than an outdoor reading garden that can only be used in the summer.	In Option 3, a sunny reading area is provided in the new addition. It faces south to maximize winter sun. In the summer, the overhang in front of this area will block unwanted sun.
The outdoor reading garden is near Jefferson Avenue, which is a busy and noisy street. Features are needed block noise.	The City will plant new vegetation around the outdoor reading garden.
Accessibility	
The design must be accessible.	The design of each option follows the City's current <i>Accessibility Design Standard</i> . This document applies to all City-owned facilities as part of the City's Universal Design Policy. The project team met on site with representatives from the City's Universal Design group to review existing accessibility deficiencies and to discuss solutions. The City's Universal Design Coordinator was consulted during the feasibility study.
Make the front and back accessible for elderly with mobility issues.	A ramp cannot be proposed at the back of the library because of the proximity to the back lane and property line. In all Options, a new ramp is proposed for the front entry.
Reading areas similar to cubicles are important for people with sensory issues.	The new tutorial rooms proposed in Options 2 and 3 would provide an acoustically separated room which could be used as a reading space.
Washrooms	
Gender-neutral washrooms are needed.	Gender neutral and barrier-free washrooms are proposed on both floors in all design options.
Gender-neutral washrooms should not be included in the library renovations	Gender-neutral washrooms are encouraged by the City's Universal Design Policy. The proposed gender-neutral washrooms are constructed using full height walls and metal doors (not washroom partitions). Only the sink areas are shared by library visitors.
Construction impacts	
Minimize impacts to the library during construction.	The City will consider a phased approach to keep part of the library open during construction. However, this would increase project costs and delay the overall construction schedule. If the library is fully closed during construction, alternate locations could be explored for book pick-up.
Sustainability	

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The City should prioritize sustainability and reducing the construction's carbon footprint.	In all design options, the existing roofing and windows are replaced to improve the building's overall energy efficiency. New energy efficient LED lighting and HVAC upgrades are proposed. Options 2 and 3 use a local material (Tyndall stone) for the cladding of the additions. Option 3 also proposes added insulation.
Library location	
Keep the library in its current location close to the school.	All options keep the library at its current location.
Move the library to a different location in a higher-traffic area with better transit.	The City explored moving the library to a new location. Council has directed the City to keep the West Kildonan Library in its current location.

Next steps

The feedback received through public engagement helped the City refine the designs. The project and funding are being considered within the City's annual budget process. Funding will help the City select a preferred option. Additional design work of the preferred option is required before construction begins.

Appendices

Appendix A – Promotional Material

Appendix B – Open House Presentation Boards

Appendix C – Survey Results