

WEST KILDONAN LIBRARY REVIEW

Phase 1 Stakeholder Engagement Summary



Background

The 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 is assessing the building to understand what improvements are needed and how much they will cost. It will look at:

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

Engagement

The City reached out to stakeholder organizations to gather early input. The input helped the City design three improvement options. A list of stakeholder organizations is available in Appendix A. Stakeholders were invited to attend a meeting at the West Kildonan Library.



Image 1: Stakeholders discuss issues and opportunities for the library

The meeting began with a short presentation on the findings of the building review completed by the architect. The presentation was followed by a group discussion. Stakeholders were asked to provide input on current use, issues, and opportunities for the West Kildonan Library.

Stakeholder meeting details are in Table 1.

Table 1: Stakeholder Engagement Opportunities

Date	Activity	Participation
August 8, 2023	Stakeholder Meeting #1	8 attendees Notes in Appendix B
August 9, 2023	Stakeholder Meeting #2	7 attendees Notes in Appendix C

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What We Heard

Table 2 summarizes the input from the stakeholder organizations and provides examples of comments. How the City considered the input when creating the three improvement options is explained for each comment.

Table 2: Input from stakeholder organizations

What we heard	How it was considered
The children's section in the basement is great because parents do not have to worry about children disrupting the rest of the library.	Options 1 and 2 propose keeping the children's area in the basement.
The children's section in the basement requires library staff and supervision on both levels. Move the children's section upstairs to address staffing and security issues.	Option 3 proposes a building addition so that the adult and children's areas can be located on the main floor. The adult and children's areas are located on opposite sides of the library to minimize disruptions.
A better pedestrian crossing is needed on Powers Street to connect the shared community centre parking to the library.	All three options propose a crosswalk on Powers Street to provide a safe connection from the library to the shared community centre parking.
Outdoor reading spaces are well-used at the other libraries. The West Kildonan Library should have an outdoor reading space.	Option 3 proposes a small outdoor reading space off Powers Street.
The library needs more collaborative spaces for meetings, community gatherings, and school projects.	Option 3 proposes two small tutorial rooms and one large meeting room for collaborations.
The elevator is not reliable and breaks down from time to time.	Option 2 and Option 3 propose a new elevator as part of building additions on the side of the library.
The design is still current, modern, and functional, despite it being from the 1960s.	All three options will respect the heritage elements of the building.
There used to be vertical cedar slats around pop-out on the roof. This feature should be restored if work is being done to the roof.	Option 3 proposes a new wood screen around the roof pop-out and new cedar siding on the fascia. These features will help restore the exterior of the building to its original style.

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Next Steps

Stakeholder input and the building review helped inform three proposed options. Cost estimates for each proposed option were also developed. The three proposed options will be presented to the stakeholders and residents in Phase 2 public engagement.

What we hear from stakeholder and residents will help the City refine the proposed options. A recommended option will be considered through future multi-year budget processes. Council approval and funding are required before construction.

Appendices

Appendix A – Stakeholder Organization List

Appendix B – Meeting #1 Notes

Appendix C – Meeting #2 Notes