

Background

The 2013 Library Redevelopment Strategy found that a new library was needed in northwest Winnipeg. Northwest Winnipeg is growing fast and many people living there don't have a library close by. In May 2025, Council approved a new library in the Garden City Shopping Centre. Design work began in summer 2025.

Engagement

We worked with residents and the Library Advisory Committee to explore how the new library should look and feel. Three possible themes—technology, gardens, and the seasons—were presented. Feedback helped the City choose a final theme and shape the design. We also invited input on public art, including the stories and ideas people would like the artwork to reflect.

A summary of public engagement opportunities is in Table 1.

Table 1: Public engagement opportunities

Date	Activity	Details
November 10 – December 3, 2025	Webpage	Over 2,800 unique visits
November 10 – December 3, 2025	Survey	706 responses
November 22, 2025	Stakeholder meeting	6 attendees
November 26, 2025	Pop-up event at Garden City Shopping Centre	Over 140 attendees

Promotion

Public engagement opportunities were promoted using the following methods:

- News release – November 10, 2025
- Coverage in the Winnipeg Free Press and CTV News – November 10 – 12, 2025
- Eleven social media posts on Facebook, X, and Instagram – November 10 – December 1, 2025
- Posters in three nearby libraries – November 10 – December 3, 2025
- Postcards mailed to 5,377 addresses – November 14, 2025
- City of Winnipeg public engagement newsletter with over 5,700 recipients – November 18, 2025
- Newspaper ad in the Community Review West – November 19, 2025



Image 1: Residents attend the pop-up event

Promotion examples are in Appendix A.

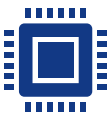
Key findings

Stakeholder meeting

We invited members from the Library Advisory Committee to a meeting to learn more about the design and provide feedback on the theme options and art. The project team gave a presentation, which was followed by a discussion. A summary of the feedback is below. Full meeting notes are in Appendix B.



- Stakeholders preferred the gardens theme.
- It feels calm, welcoming, and most appropriate for a library, especially since the space has limited natural light.



- The technology theme was seen as interesting and a good fit for a mall.
- However, not well suited to a quiet library space.



- The seasons theme was considered creative.
- Concerns were raised about clashing colours and the possible negative feelings linked to certain areas, such as winter.



- Public art should reflect the local community, include strong Indigenous representation, and celebrate neighbourhood diversity.
- Public art should feature local landmarks and place names from northwest Winnipeg.

Pop-up event and survey

Residents were invited to a pop-up event to view the early design and share feedback. A survey was available at the pop-up event and on the project webpage. Below is a summary of what we heard. Full results are available in Appendix C. Analysis of the open-ended questions are available in Appendix D.

Survey respondents were asked to describe how they would like to feel in the library. Words like safe, comfortable, calm, and cozy were popular responses (Figure 1).



Image 2: Storyboards showcasing the design at the pop-up event

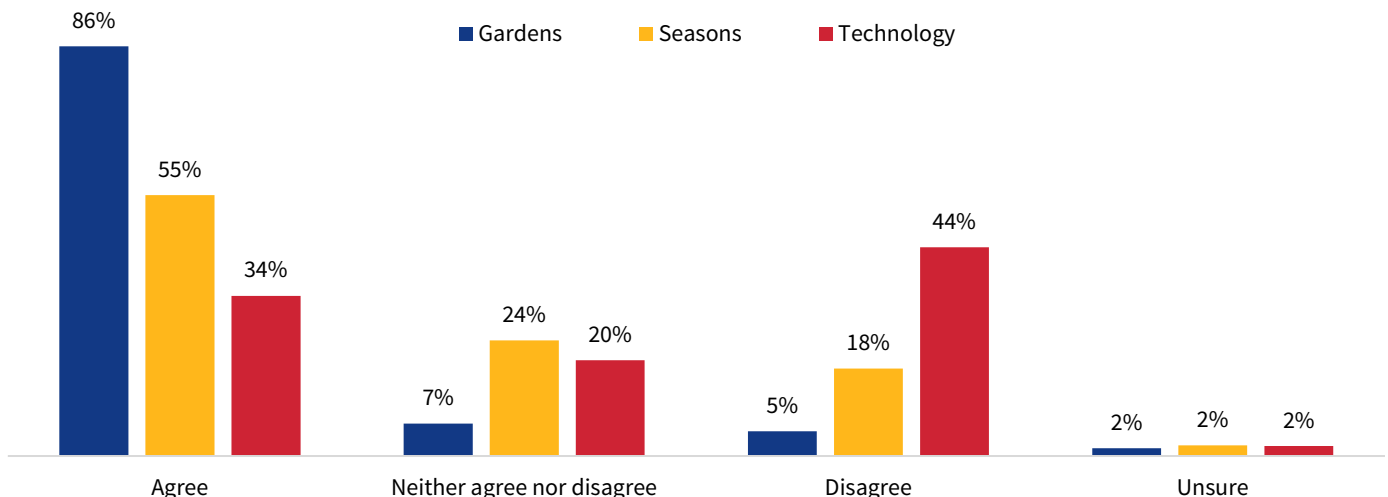
Figure 1: Please write down two or three words that describe how you would like to feel in the library.
(664 responses)



Survey respondents were asked for feedback on each proposed theme. Respondents felt the gardens themes was the best fit for the library whereas the technology theme was not a good fit (Figure 2).

The gardens theme was described as calming, warm, welcoming and cozy (227 comments). Respondents also liked the theme's connection to Garden City (131 comments). The seasons theme had mixed feelings on the colour palette (120 comments). Some felt the colors were vibrant and varied, while others felt the colors were too bold and did not reflect the seasons. There were also concerns about colours with the technology theme (137 comments). Some respondents liked the modern look of technology, while others were concerned it would look dated quickly (80 comments).

Figure 2: Do you think the theme is a good fit for the new library and surrounding community?
(673 responses)



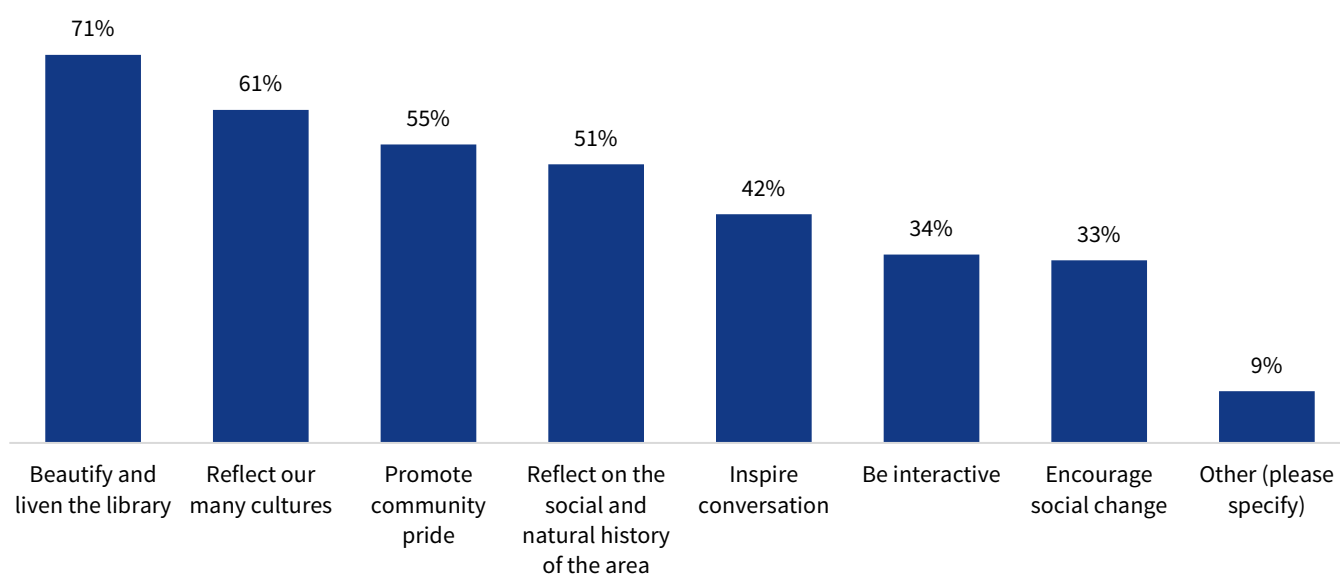
Respondents were asked what they would like the library's public art to achieve (Figure 3). Beautify and liven the library (71 percent) and reflect the many cultures in the area (61 percent) were the top responses.

Ideas for stories that could be told through the public art included cultural diversity/representation (140 comments), Indigenous culture/truth & reconciliation (95 comments), and local history/community identity (88 comments).

Figure 3: The library will feature public art along the outside. Examples of art are shown below for inspiration.

What do you want the public art to achieve? (Check all that apply)

(666 responses)



What we heard

After the feedback was summarized and the open-ended responses were grouped into themes, the project team went through the feedback and considered how it could be addressed or incorporated. If feedback could not be addressed or incorporated, they provided a response. Table 1 lists key feedback and how it was considered.

Table 1: What we heard and how it was considered

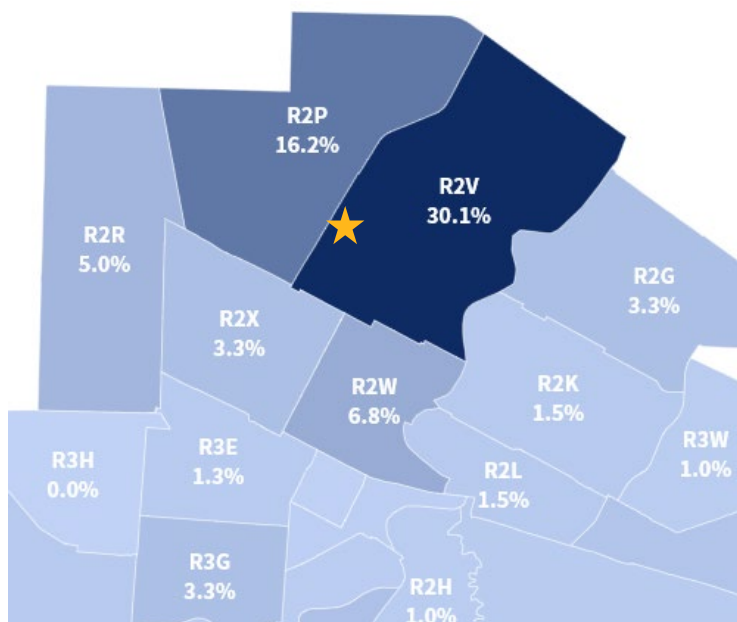
What we heard	How it was considered
Gardens was the preferred theme for the library (86 percent of survey respondents).	We will be moving forward with the gardens theme in the final design.

What we heard	How it was considered
Public art should beautify and liven the library (71 percent of survey respondents) and reflect the many cultures in the area (61 percent of survey respondents).	We are working with the Winnipeg Arts Council. Input on public art was shared with the Winnipeg Arts Council. The input will help shape the types of art.
The library should include child-friendly and inclusive spaces, private study areas, comfy furniture, charging stations and more (62 comments).	The library will include a children's and teen's area along with private tutorial rooms. Comfortable seating and study furniture will be provided throughout the library, with outlets for charging in most spaces.
Respondents are excited for the opening of the new library and community benefit (56 comments).	We are pleased that residents are looking forward to the new library opening in late 2026. Northwest Winnipeg is growing fast and many people living there don't have a library close by.
There is a lack of community representation in the name and there was no engagement on the name (35 comments).	On July 17, 2025, Council voted to name the new library the Mike O'Shaughnessy Library. When introducing the motion, Councillor Sharma stated that many community members had approached her over the years to suggest honouring Mike O'Shaughnessy in a meaningful way.
Some respondents did not like the mall location due to concerns over noise, distractions, and natural lighting (12 comments).	We couldn't find any suitable city-owned land in the Old Kildonan or Mynarski wards. We issued an Expression of Interest to see if there were any suitable locations to lease. Garden City Shopping Centre met all the requirements. The library is designed to limit noise and distractions from outside. A sky ceiling feature will help address lighting concerns.
Some respondents liked the mall location due to convenience, parking, transit, and security (11 comments).	Benefits of the mall location include heavy foot traffic, plenty of parking, and is easy to get to by bus.
Concern about West Kildonan Library funding and calls to increase spending on libraries (22 comments).	The Mike O'Shaughnessy Library will improve access and grow library services. It is not replacing any existing libraries. The West Kildonan Library building review study was accepted as information by Council in 2024. Any upgrades to West Kildonan Library or others would need Council approval and funding.

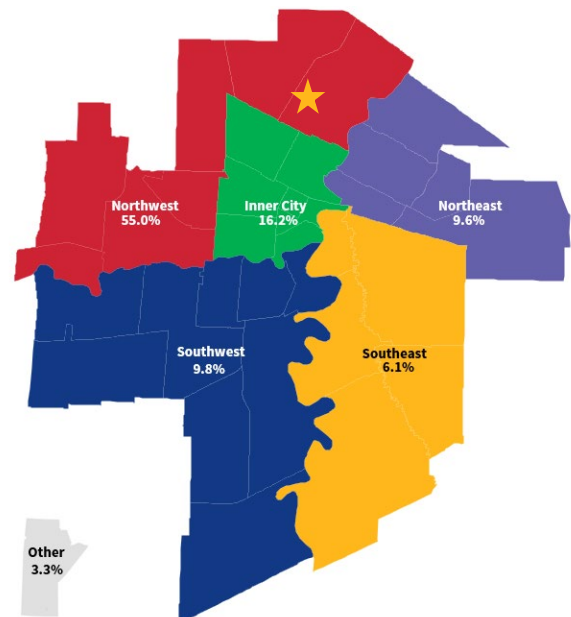
Who we heard from

Most survey respondents were adults aged 35–54 (44 percent), with strong participation from those aged 18–34 (29 percent) and 55–74 (22 percent). Many identified as parents or caregivers (39 percent), while a number of respondents identified as racialized individuals (18 percent), people with disabilities (17 percent), or as gender and/or sexually diverse (14 percent). Overall, more women (66 percent) responded to the survey than men (20 percent).

Of the 604 respondents who shared their postal code, the majority were from northwest Winnipeg (55 percent), followed by the inner city (16 percent).



Map 1: Survey respondents by postal code.



Map 2: Survey respondents by area.

Next steps

Feedback will be used to refine the design over the winter. Construction will begin in spring 2026. The new library is expected to be open in late 2026.

Appendices

- Appendix A – Promotion
- Appendix B – Stakeholder meeting notes
- Appendix C – Survey results
- Appendix D – Open-ended question analysis