

## **Space planning for Main Library expansion-- What do Children's Services' patrons & staff need?**

### **Collection Needs:**

More Space for J Pic; J Series; J Mags; J Graphic Novels & Comic Bks.; J Holiday;  
J Audiobooks: J Nonfiction; J Fiction

\*Rethink organization of the room--does it make sense logically now? How could we improve where materials are located? Which items might make sense together? For ex., how about J P/T & Storytime Bags? And try to make sure that the J Board books & J Pics stay close to ST Bags & J P/T.

Trains waste a lot of space in the room--need to use space more effectively, especially for the collections that have ended up on the ends of trains--\*\**Floor of the caboose needs to be dropped--could design a step on the inside of the train, running around the inside edge that allowed smaller children to climb up to the benches but the main floor of the caboose would allow older children/adults to stand w/in the caboose.*

New shelving for J Book & AC/CD sets--HATE the spinny racks!--would like racks set into the wall or in drawers

Special shelving for various formats (books on CD, for ex. & Movie/TV--could use bin/drawer for these books, something better than plastic bins we have now

*Face-out picture books--would allow more access to kids, more circs, since covers would be more visible*

### **Front Desk:**

No large pillars blocking view of patrons we're trying to help!

Cabinets for storage behind the desk, so that we can keep mending & other materials out of view, making desk more inviting & professional in appearance

Either eliminate or re-structure kid walkway, so that front desk has clear view of young patrons entering & exiting--very important for SAFETY (also listed in "Safety Concerns")

Larger space at front desk for displays--gets very cluttered (more counter space!)

Keep display corners or some sort of display area for special collections

Is the front desk ergonomic for us? *Need more knee space as we sit at the desk, because mending bins take up foot/leg area under front.*

*Would also like the Front Desk more centrally located in the room--if CS were to expand out into part of S&S, the present location might work. Right now much of the room (JNF, J P/T) is VERY far from the desk & practically invisible. We could also expand into the 3rd floor lobby or into the Ref. Workroom space & change the entire layout of our room.*

*Make sure the printer for public print jobs is w/in a few steps of public service point in CS*

*Wall space near entry for a permanent poster spot to display latest Publicity posters, instead of easel (not as seamless) in the lobby/traffic area*

### **Storytime Room:**

*Needs to be bigger--perhaps expanded & then somehow divided (or able to be divided) for multiple uses--Storytimes, art projects*

*Would like a special floor covering for this room, since we do many art programs here--NOT carpet, want something softer than tile & cork, washable--rubber? We've seen floors like this but don't know yet what they're called (material)*

*Sinks & Refrigerator, in locked area (behind locked double doors)--no more need to carry H2O & food back & forth from Lounge--also increases efficiency for craft clean-up & increases our options for programming*

*Child-sized tables & chairs either here or in a new craft room*

*Cabinets instead of tables for the Storytime Room. Tables are dangerous and inviting to toddlers and infants when they're walking around. A cabinet would be a good place to display materials and hold the CD player.*

*Increased Storage space in ST Room for props, SRP prizes, ECRR pamphlets, posters, etc.*

*Design walls with vertical or horizontal bulletin board strips for easy visual changes*

*Built-in display space for books, rather than table tops, to promote collection at programs (similar to rail in CS now or in Dickinson Rm.)*

### **Workroom:**

*Need more space for all staff--both larger desk areas, as well as a big, open workspace to cut material, plan crafts, etc. (Workroom could be twice as big!)*

*Need standup workspace in the Workroom too--for cutting paper, jobs when you need to stand instead of sit--also want open shelving above this workspace*

*Would like Manager's office to keep view of CS, as well as be connected by another door to the dept. workroom.*

*Book cart parking space in Workroom for weeding in process &/or weeding in process shelving*

### **Safety Concerns in CS:**

Need improved sightlines from service desk to areas of room

Either eliminate or re-structure kid walkway, so that front desk has clear view of young patrons entering & exiting

If we stay with train theme, take out all of the hard flooring (track near trains & in roundhouse) & install carpet that looks like track

Changing tables in boys & girls restrooms, IN CS (*larger restrooms in CS; possibly include inner room w/ changing table & comfortable seats for nursing moms, resting, then inner room w/ toilets & sinks*)

*Lower shelving in the room, allowing more visibility for children (they're SHORT!), parents & staff--would also make the room feel more open & more inviting*

*\*\*ONE entrance/exit into CS--safer for small children & parents not realizing that their child/children could have gotten out of the entire dept., possibly w/ a door that young children could not open (and run out)--would have to have electronic button to open, low enough for handicapped patrons (in wheelchairs, for ex.) but high enough that a 3 or 4 year old couldn't reach*

*Hard bench backs & sides removed from benches--padding or soft seating installed (in Roundhouse area)*

*More space between shelves & wider entrance for folks w/ strollers, as well as handicapped/mobility impaired patrons*

### **Warm, Inviting Space:**

*COATHOOKS! At child's level*

*Cubbies for people's materials--they often wind up leaving piles of materials w/ us at the front desk & creates space issue (and looks messy)*

*Child-sized seating **of different sizes, for the differently-sized children & adults we serve***

*Comfortable seating--very few comfy chairs--especially needed near J P/T--and all seating needs to be either leather (most durable) or most durable fabric we can buy--most rubs--possibly also add a giant ottoman like AV has (cool!)*

Cozy reading spots for child & parent

Changing tables in boys & girls restrooms, IN CS (also a safety issue, if parent has more than 1 child)

Semi-private area for mothers who are nursing--either w/in the room itself, or expand women's restroom (locked restroom) to include a comfortable chair for a nursing mom

Improved signage--easy-to-read, and English & Espanol! Especially need a new, professional sign for the Libros en Espanol section.

Big, kid-friendly sign at the entrance that says "Children's Services"--no more confusion from patrons about which area they're in!

Listening stations for J Audio book, cassette & CD (or only CD, if cassette stations aren't available)

Sound pods that can play music overhead--won't infringe upon quiet of room, only patrons under the pod (have several in the room)

Wider aisles in the room to enable shopping carts, strollers & wheelchairs to move more easily

*More possibilities for open space, so that parents w/ strollers can park them out of the way*

\*If we stay with train theme, take out all of the hard flooring (track near trains & in roundhouse) & install carpet that looks like track (safety issue as well--also in safety category)

\*Also if we keep the train theme, the train cars need new wallpaper w/ a washable surface

An early literacy exploration area as focal point of room, similar to Phoenix PL's "The First Five Years" space--focuses on 6 elements of ECRR, which we've invested time & \$ in

Could the windows facing the stairs be made into 1 big window? Cooler for kids, cooler for decoration possibilities... (Probably depends most on structural issues/safety)

Could the ceiling be heightened? (Unless we're building another floor on top...)

Electronic board near front that lists weekly offerings--no more Dry-Erase/Light Board!

Puppet Stage for kids to put on their own plays or for us to use in STs, etc.

*Performance space/collapsible stage in ST Room*

Blank wall space in room so that we can display children's art (so it's up all the time & always accessible, unlike ST Room now)--*if we did this, would need to be LOW & higher (different heights), so that very young children could also enjoy--also suggested was a chalkboard*

*space/art space that was erasable, at child level, so that children have ownership & interest in art*

Study rooms/space for school-aged children to study/do homework

*Magazines located in 1 place, w/ Parent/Teacher materials together & clearly labeled & the Juv. Mags together & clearly labeled (& both alphabetical w/in their categories)*

*Bulletin boards that we have now are good for parents--we'd also like 1 or 2 bulletin boards for children--at their eyelevel*

*Space for small craft tables/art tables that we could move closer to the front desk, for make it-take it crafts--so we can observe & restock materials more easily*

### **New Theme Ideas:**

If we were able to change themes, what would be some cool new ideas? Think theme, decor, special aspects/features of the room...

*--CHILDREN EVERYWHERE--focus on kids, travel, multicultural feel, smiling children's faces (in photographs) as you walk through some kind of cool entrance--flexible theme, welcoming theme...*

*--Fantasy/dragons*

*--Exploration/travel*

*--Boats/water (since we're on the river)*

*--Nature (constructed trees, animals, etc.)*

*--Discover your world--can have a lot of variations--could even mount a telescope to look out a south window...*

### **Computers for CS Patrons:**

Barcode readers for Internet computers

New games, especially new educational games. Yes!

*Move computers so that they're still visible to staff but not focal pt. of the room AND block off computer area--put them behind glass walls that are visible to CS staff but reduce the noise in the room*

**General Main Library suggestions:**

*Roof garden for Main--green space, quiet, beautiful space looking out over the city--with high rails for safety--could also become an outdoor performance space AND could possibly help reduce utility costs (added insulation)*

*ALL checkouts on 1st floor--no more confusion about checkouts in AV for the same formats we have (CDs)--RFID would help enable this, right? Easier to explain to patrons*

*What is logical about putting Magazines, Newspapers & Fiction together? Not natural connection.*

*Revised 8/15/06*

*KS*