

## **FINAL MERCER ISLAND REMODEL PLANS NARRATIVE**

**Throughout a four month process with the Mercer Island Library Committee, the following areas of the remodel plan presented in January 2014 were highlighted as areas of concern:**

- Layout of the children's/large meeting room
- Study/small meeting room
- Children's area configuration
- Vestibule
- Skylight and lighting
- Friends book sale, storage and donation areas
- Curved wall
- Color palette and furniture
- Temporary library location

Other concerns included the display case, book drop and location of the staff desk for improved visibility. The noise cancelling system was also questioned.

**Throughout the process, considering the input from two discussions with the Mercer Island Library Committee (March 10 and May 8), along with additional feedback by the Concerned Citizen's Committee and other community members, KCLS, in consultation with our architects, has significantly adapted the remodel plans to the community's desires and will remodel the Mercer Island Library within these parameters:**

- **Layout of the children's area and large meeting room.** While KCLS does not think that the current location of the meeting room and children's area is the optimal layout for flexibility of space (Scheme 2), the community has expressed strong sentiments about keeping the meeting room where it is so KCLS will remodel the meeting room and children's area in their current locations and construct a glass wall between them. While originally proposing that the wall contain sliding doors, it was determined that architecturally and functionally it would be best to just have solid glass with a single entry door into the meeting room (next to the Friends book sale area and across from the self-checkout wall.) Visibility into the room will be achieved, but access will be limited to the single door. New windows on the exterior walls will have darkening shades for movie nights and a cyber-bar with lighting on the south wall can be used by patrons for seating when the meeting room is not otherwise in use.
- **Study and small meeting room.** The committee suggested replacing the study and small meeting room configuration in Scheme 1 with Scheme 2. The suggested configuration, however, would create an unusable L-shaped space, eliminating seating. After discussion with the architects, the small meeting room and one study room will remain, which provides one more study space than currently exists.

- **Children's room configuration.** KCLS will work with its architects to configure the shelving in an appealing arrangement for children. The computers and furniture will remain as depicted at the meeting. The early literacy modules will likely be located over wood casework on the glass wall where it covers the cross-bracing at the south side of children's area.
- **Vestibule.** KCLS will go with the wider vestibule space as requested by the committee, which keeps the restrooms in the vestibule space. This is not KCLS' preferred choice and does not allow for optimal site lines to the restrooms, which has become an issue in other branches.
- **Skylight and lighting.** KCLS will rebuild the skylight to replicate the current design, adding structural support for hanging lights.
- **Friends book sale, storage and donation areas.** As presented to the Committee, the Friends Book Sale and storage areas will be on the left side after the vestibule doors (the storage area will also be accessible in the meeting room). A specially built donation bin will be located near the self-check-out area; this is a new feature we have not built in other KCLS libraries.
- **Curved wall.** KCLS will leave the existing curved wall as is. As a result, the skylight will not be extended as proposed but will remain exactly the same size. This is not KCLS' preferred choice from a design standpoint, but was a strong concern from the committee members.
- **Color palette and furniture.** The Committee was complimentary of the warmer, softer, more traditional look of the furniture. KCLS will change the orange fabric in the adult area to a blue hue and implement the furniture shown.
- **Temporary library location.** Based on preferences for a temporary location that allows for optimum hours and largest square footage, KCLS is exploring Rite Aid and the Congregational Church. The committee indicated that either location would work well.
- **Other suggestions: display case, book drop, location of the staff desk for visibility.**
  - It was suggested that a display case be built above the self-check-out machines. KCLS no longer builds display cases in libraries due to the operational and staff time in scheduling.
  - The book drop by the parking space will be removed as it has presents ergonomics issues for staff. The single parking spot will be incorporated into the exterior landscaping as it too causes issues with traffic flow in the parking lot.
  - KCLS will make minor adjustments to staff desk pod to improve its visibility within the library.
  - The noise cancelling system will not be installed.