DATA, PEOPLE, PLACES

APPROACH:

CO-ENVISIONING THE

RENOVATION OF THE

BROWNSVILLE LIBRARY
Karp Strategies is a WBE-, DBE-, SBE-certified urban planning and strategy consulting firm that partners with organizations to identify their unique needs and provide tailored solutions.

We take analysis to action to help our cross-sector clients tackle challenges, make decisions, and advance their projects.

We strive to build stronger communities, systems, economies, and cities.
VALUES

We take analysis to action to help our cross-sector clients tackle challenges, make decisions, and advance their projects.

Our firm examines every project from a holistic angle, incorporating people, data, and place as core tenets.

We believe in doing good to do well, and that equity and upside work hand in hand.
AGENDA

1 | CONTEXT

2 | ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

3 | CLOSING THE FEEDBACK LOOP
BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY STRATEGIC PLAN

1. TO FOSTER LITERACY AND THE LOVE OF LEARNING

2. TO SUPPLY TRUSTED, UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION RESOURCES AND GUIDE PATRONS TO THE ONES THEY NEED

3. TO CONNECT RESIDENTS TO EDUCATIONAL AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

4. TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONS BETWEEN RESIDENTS AND PROMOTE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

5. TO PROVIDE INCLUSIVE AND INSPIRATIONAL PLACES
1 | CONTEXT

HOWARD HOUSES

NYCHA FARM

PS 298 / MS 363

BROWNSVILLE BRANCH

IMAGE: LTL ARCHITECTS
1 | CONTEXT

HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY
1 | CONTEXT

KEY STAKEHOLDER

BPL

NYC DDC

NYC DCLA

BPL BROWNSVILLE

KARP STRATEGIES

LTL

TOWN + GOWN: RESILIENT PUBLIC SPACES AND COMMUNITIES
OUTREACH

BE ON BELMONT (BROWNSVILLE COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTER)
BROWNSVILLE PARTNERSHIP (UNITED FOR BROWNSVILLE FAMILY ADVISORY BOARD)
BROOKLYN COMMUNITY BOARD 16
BROWNSVILLE RECREATION CENTER
MADE IN BROWNSVILLE
PITKIN AVENUE BID
SCO FAMILY SERVICES
BROOKLYN CLERGY- NYPD TASK FORCE
BROOKLYN BOROUGH PRESIDENT ERIC ADAMS- OFFICE OF FAITH-BASED AND CLERGY INITIATIVES
BROOKDALE HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER
BROWNSVILLE COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTER
CENTER FOR LAW AND SOCIAL JUSTICE- MEDGAR EVERS COLLEGE
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP COMMISSION ASSOCIATION
G.M.A.C.C.
KAVI- KINGS AGAINST VIOLENCE INITIATIVE
NEIGHBORS TOGETHER
TEACHERS UNITE
NEHEMIAH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INC.
OCEAN HILL-BROWNSVILLE COALITION FOR YOUNG PROFESSIONALS
BROOKLYN NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION
73RD PRECINCT COUNCIL
COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL 23

TOWN + GOWN: RESILIENT PUBLIC SPACES AND COMMUNITIES
TOWN + GOWN: RESILIENT PUBLIC SPACES AND COMMUNITIES

2 | ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

Branch Staff Interviews
Community Workshop
Teen Workshop
Family Workshop
Report Out

Design Development


Construction Starts 2021

UPCOMING REPORT OUT

6 Staff Interviews
23-36 Participants
26 Participants
12 Participants
2 | ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP!
COMMUNITY WORKSHOP!

RELAXING AND CONTROLLABLE ENVIRONMENT: Participants voiced widespread desire for the library to be a place where they could control their environment in distinct ways.

ACCOMMODATING MULTIPLE USER TYPES/DYNAMIC FLEXIBLE SPACE: Five of six tables expressed the need for spaces that serve multiple users – and especially different age groups – and functions at different times.

ART AND HISTORY: Participants expressed their appreciation for the history of the library and the Brownsville neighborhood.

BEYOND THE WALLS: From connecting to the community garden at the Howard Houses next door, to creating rotating exhibitions to display outside, to making the roof available for activities, many participants were excited by the prospect of bringing aspects of the library outdoors and connecting it to the larger neighborhood context.

CELEBRATION AND INCLUSION: Alongside the discussions of art, history, and dynamic spaces, participants raised the idea of the library being a celebratory space.

GREEN: Five out of the six tables emphasized that some sort of greenery be incorporated into the branch, whether it be through indoor plants and green walls, a rooftop space, or connection between adjacent greenery and the branch.

HEALTH & WELLNESS: Multiple tables and individual participants expressed their implicit and explicit desires for the future library to incorporate health and wellness qualities.
2 | ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

YOUTH WORKSHOP!
BOLSTERING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS + MUCH MORE THAN A LIBRARY: At all of the six tables, participants expressed their desire to have a community space that goes beyond a place to access books.

DESIGNATED TEEN SPACE: A space designated for teens where participants could “hang out” and connect with friends.

CONNECTION TO BASKETBALL, PLAY, AND PERFORMING SPACES: Participants shared their interest in performance and music production.

ENTERTAINMENT, TECH, AND GAME ACCESS: Multiple tables described their ideal branch as rich in technology resources and experiences.

INTEGRATING GREENERY AND GARDEN SPACE: Participants resoundingly expressed the desire for a branch that connects to green, garden spaces where they can relax. At five out of six tables, participants created garden spaces that connected to the branch either as a rooftop garden, in the form of a hands-on hydroponics lab, or most often as a bench-filled garden that the branch opens out into. One table described a library with a rooftop garden whose entire floor would be covered in moss.

SPACES DESIGNATED FOR QUIET AND RELAXATION: All tables prioritized quiet and relaxation.

CIVIC BEACONS AND PLAYFUL SPACES TO FOSTER PRIDE AND SENSE OF WELCOME: Participants described their ideal branches as beautiful, well-designed spaces which featured playful architectural elements that communicated a civic pride within the surrounding built environment.
2 | ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

FAMILIES WORKSHOP!
ACCESS TO OUTDOOR SPACE: participants envisioned a flexible outdoor space that served as: a) a quiet and relaxing; b) a space where patrons can learn about nature; and c) an active space, where patrons could work out.

OPENNESS WITH SPECIALIZED SPACES: Participants expressed the desire for a branch with a combination of both open, flexible spaces and smaller, more specialized spaces.

CAREGIVERS WITH YOUNG CHILDREN: participants envisioned separate spaces for parents in close proximity or with visibility to their children and spaces where parents and children can experience their branch together.

TWEENS AND TEENS: space with a rich array of resources and experiences and spaces and programming for siblings across age.
WHAT WE HEARD!

1. BEYOND THE WALLS
2. INTEGRATING GREENERY AND GARDEN SPACE
3. FLEXIBLE COMMUNITY SPACE
4. SPACES FOR DIFFERENT AGES
5. RICH IN TECH RESOURCES
6. SMALLER, SPECIALIZED SPACES
7. ENCLODED QUIET SPACE
8. MORE STAFF SPACE
9. IMPROVED BATHROOMS
10. WELCOMING CIVIC BEACON
11. CELEBRATE HISTORY
12. NATURAL LIGHT AND WINDOWS
13. TEMPERATURE CONTROL
3 | CLOSING THE FEEDBACK LOOP

GOALS FOR UPCOMING REPORT OUT

1. COMMUNITY DESIGN

2. FOSTER COLLECTIVE OWNERSHIP

3. CONTRIBUTE TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONSHIPS WITH LOCAL CBOS

TOWN + GOWN: RESILIENT PUBLIC SPACES AND COMMUNITIES
3 | CLOSING THE FEEDBACK LOOP
THANK YOU!

Q+A