“Pacific Library improves the quality of our community's wisdom.”

Patron from an educational institution | Survey
REPORT CONTENTS

- The Community Vision
- Community Visioning Process
After conducting the community visioning process detailed on the following pages and reviewing all of the feedback and data, the following recommendations emerged as essential to the community’s vision for Pacific Library.

**The location of Pacific Library** is convenient for so many people. BPL has committed to remain in this location.

**Accessibility means everyone** can use Pacific Library, regardless of age or ability. Full accessibility is a crucial step moving forward.

**Functioning heating/cooling and mechanical systems** are important to year-round use of Pacific Library. Upgrading the HVAC, plumbing, electrical and other mechanical equipment is a crucial step moving forward.

The large **second floor space** presents opportunities to address neighborhood needs. It is crucial to consult with community stakeholders about the best way to use this important library space.

The **community rooms** have lots of potential and need to be utilized fully. Developing a plan to make those spaces more accessible and versatile is crucial to meeting the needs of our patrons.

Pacific Library should have **flexible, multi-use and easy to transform spaces** that suit the many needs of its patrons. These spaces are crucial to meeting the needs of the library’s patrons and the neighborhood.

Pacific Library has many opportunities to take advantage of **natural light**. It is crucial that renovations prioritize maximizing access to natural light and exposing windows that exist but are not accessible.

**Spaces for technology** should be as thoughtfully designed as those for books. It is crucial to modernize and update Pacific Library’s spaces for technology.
Patrons love the new use of the outdoor space. It is crucial that future renovations continue and expand these areas, transforming the front of the building into a more welcoming and usable space.

The entryway is an area with so much potential. It is crucial for renovations to redesign the entryway so that it feels safer, more open and serves as a proper welcome to Pacific Library.

When teens have their own spaces, the library is explicitly welcoming them to this public space. Designating an area for teens is crucial to welcoming teens to Pacific Library.

The staff of Pacific Library are beloved by the branch’s community. Ensuring Pacific Library’s staff can do their best work is crucial to the future of Pacific Library.

Patrons are interested in more reading areas and quiet spaces to sit and do work. It is crucial to have multiple types of seating, including lounge-like areas and working areas, for patrons to enjoy all of the library’s resources.

The library is full of spaces that can be enlivened with art, murals or other vertical elements. It is crucial that artwork, murals and other ways to add color be considered in future renovations.
“I love that it's a circle! The building is beautiful. It's a quiet spot in a busy neighborhood.”

Patron that visits the area for appointments | Survey
COMMUNITY VISIONING PROCESS

- Planning Meeting
- Initial Research
- Library Use Assessment
- Community Outreach
- Survey Results
- Interactive Bulletin Board in Library
- Visioning Session

SPRING + SUMMER 2019
In May 2019, Brooklyn Public Library met with the Friends of Pacific Library, community leaders and Council Member Brad Lander to come up with a plan to collect community feedback. Together, we created a plan to:

- Launch an online and print survey to collect patron and community feedback
- Host an “interactive bulletin board” in Pacific Library to collect patron feedback
- Host an in-person, evening community workshop to collect patron feedback.

The Friends and other stakeholders had many suggestions of organizations and neighborhood leaders for Pacific Library’s team to reach out to.
Pacific Library is a 15,758-square-foot, four-level brick structure. The branch was extensively renovated in 1975; in 2018 Pacific Library received minor repairs, including a temporary ramp, and the Friends of Pacific Library unveiled a new garden.

Pacific Library is one of Brooklyn Public Library’s 18 Carnegie branches, historic treasures that are costly to preserve and require many updates. Among the most notable needs for this branch are ADA access to the mezzanine, second floor and lower levels; restoration of the aging façade and windows; renovation of the interior; and replacement of the aging mechanical equipment including the heating and cooling system.

The area surrounding Pacific Library has a median income of $75,621 with a range of $36,890 to $112,128.

Ages 35-64 make up the largest age group at 38% which is more than double the 17.7% of the population that is age 19 or below.

Just over 30% of its residents speak a language other than English at home, with only 11% who speak English “less than very well.”

The most common language spoken at home is Spanish at 20%, above the borough average of 16.6%. Chinese is second at 2.5%, below the borough average of 7.2%.

Nearly 60% of local residents have an associate’s degree or higher, well above the borough average of 39%, with just over 15.5% having not completed high school or its equivalent, well below the borough average of 20.7%.

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<tr>
<th>Pacific Library</th>
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<td>Checkouts</td>
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<td>Renewals</td>
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<td>Total Circulation</td>
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<td>Check-ins</td>
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<td>PC Sessions</td>
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<td>WiFi Sessions</td>
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<td>Program Sessions</td>
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<td>Program Attendance</td>
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<td>Visits</td>
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Source: BklynSTAT data for Fiscal Year 2019 (with demographic data from the 2010 census). Note: Pacific Library was closed two months during Fiscal Year 2019 for repairs.
Library card usage at Pacific Library in the last 12 months

BklynSTAT:
Internal Library Data Tracking
Library cards used more than six times over the last 12 months at Pacific Library
COMMUNITY OUTREACH

External outreach included emailing the community organizations listed below with an introduction to the project, an invite to our community visioning session and an online survey designed for community partners.

CONTACTED ORGANIZATIONS

1. ACORN high school
2. Atlantic Ave local development corporation
3. Bethel Baptist Church
4. Boerum Hill Association
5. Brooklyn Bear’s Community Gardens
6. Brooklyn High School of the Arts
7. Brooklyn Queens Land Trust
8. ChiPs
9. Forth on Fourth Ave Committee
10. Friends Group of Pacific Library
11. FUREE (5th Avenue Committee)
12. Gowanus Canal Conservancy
13. Gowanus Neighborhood Coalition for Justice
14. Greenspace on 4th
15. Griot
16. Hanson Place Child Developmental Center
17. Hanson Place Elementary
18. Imani House
19. Immanuel—First Spanish United Methodist Church
20. Khalil Academy
21. Kids Run Around Daycare
22. Metropolitan Corporate Academy
23. MS 447
24. MUSE Academy
25. New York Restoration Project
26. NYCHA: Wyckoff Gardens Tenant Association
27. NYCHA: Gowanus Houses Tenant Association
28. NY Kids Club
29. NY Writers Coalition
30. NYC Resistor
31. Park Slope Civic Council
32. PS 31
33. PS 38
34. P77K
35. RAICES
36. VOCAL NY
37. Warren St. Marks Community Garden

Patrons would have liked to see more diversity represented in the engagement activities. As this project progresses, more of an effort needs to be made to reach a better sample of the patrons that come to Pacific.

Based on a patron comment | Visioning Session
118 responses were gathered from a paper and online survey to capture specific data regarding most common usage of the branch and priorities for the community. Surveys were distributed by branch staff at Pacific Library and digitally via email from May 15 to June 10, 2019.

**Age Group**

- Under 13
- 13-17
- 18-35
- 36-54
- 55+

**Relationship to the Neighborhood**

- I live in the area
- I work in the area
- I (or family members) go to school in the area
- I have meetings or appointments in the area
- I do shopping or errands in the area

**Why do you come to Pacific Library?**

- To use the Collection (books, magazines, DVDs, etc.)
- To use the computers or technology
- To ask a librarian
- To meet up with friends or socialize
- To use a community room
- To use the common space
- To attend a program or activity
- To use a program or activity
SURVEY

CURRENT FEATURES TO KEEP

- Staff
- Sense of Community
- Building
- Location
- Resources
- Space

WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE

- Open Hours
- Space
- Events/Programs
- Collection
- Technology
- Improved Infrastructure

- Quiet, relaxing spaces
- Noisier patrons have their own room; separate rooms for babies, kids and teens
- Classes and educational opportunities
- Elevator to access all floors, ADA shelving
- Restrooms on each floor
- Heating/cooling system (HVAC)
- More seating space
PRIORITY

- Educational programming and lifelong learning
- Comfortable and safe community space
- Bringing diverse people together
- Accessible physical books and resources
- Providing family-friendly and cultural activities
- Providing social support and services
- Providing tools for democracy and civic engagement
- Sharing information about the neighborhood and city
- Closing the digital divide of access to internet/resources
Brooklyn Public Library created this in-branch activity to survey patrons as they entered the building from May 15 through June 10. Incomers were prompted to add a sticker dot to the post-it notes they liked or add a new note to express something they loved about their library. 71 post-it notes and 116 “dotmocracy” stickers were collected. Brooklyn Public Library combined responses from all comments collected and the following categories emerged, listed from most to least mentioned.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Quote</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Staff</strong></td>
<td>“Friendly, welcoming staff”</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Programs &amp; Resources</strong></td>
<td>“We all get to learn”</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Collection</strong></td>
<td>“Books are my medicine, I love coming to Pacific to heal myself”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Location</strong></td>
<td>“Close to home and lovely vibe!”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Space</strong></td>
<td>“A simple, friendly neighborhood library”</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Building</strong></td>
<td>“We’ve grown with you”</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sense of community</strong></td>
<td>“Supports everyone in our community”</td>
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A workshop based on the Rose-Thorn-Bud activity where roses are things patrons love, thorns are things they don’t like, and buds are things with potential. The activity is designed to hone in on the buds (areas of opportunity) that the community identifies at Pacific Library.

Participants were divided into four groups and worked together to devise their vision for the future of Pacific Library. Brooklyn Public Library compiled all participants’ worksheets.
**Potential Ideas | Basement**

**Space Use**
- Allow more access to this floor
- Use for art exhibits, create a makerspace or ceramic studio
- Convert into staff space to deter criminal activity
- Add more visibility, open up the usage so the space becomes safer
- Use the space for more programs, books or reading rooms

**Meeting Room**
- Promote meeting room space more to the public
- Rent the space for community/nonprofit use or equipment rentals
- Expand the use of empty wall space; add movable walls to the meeting room
- Have a room set up with desktop computers and rent the room as a training space

**Opportunities**
- Add more light in the nooks and corridors and open up windows to let daylight enter
- Make the stage mobile
VISIONING SESSION

Potential Ideas | First/Main Floor

Inside the Building
- Keep the children's room, but make it larger. Add play elements or toys to the room and more computers. Make checkout stations accessible to children.
- Create more stroller parking
- Smaller info desk to create more patron space
- More seating for everyone and a special area for teens
- Accessible public restroom on this floor

Outside the Building
- More welcoming entrance to the library and garden. Build a ramp on the front & back of the building.
- Change dimensions of fence to create better access to the garden
- Use signage (analog or digital) to make it more inviting
- Remove fence & transform the external space of the branch to encourage people to linger after hours
- Build a solarium or greenhouse
- Garden: add access to the building from this space. Have more seating & add fragrant/edible plants.
- Jacuzzi or swimming pool and sandbox for children
- Ask the MTA for unused newsstand in the area and use it to promote & extend the reach of the branch
- Install a book dropbox
Potential Ideas | Mezzanine

- Have continuous seating wrapping around mezzanine
- Make a lounge area for teens with more seating space
- Room for plants in windowsill or hanging
- Put tables by the windows
- Open up space in the middle of the bookshelves
VISIONING SESSION

Potential Ideas | Second Floor

Space Use
- This floor should be used more by the public to allow more access, all currently locked
- Create flexible, multi-functional spaces
- Add ability to split into several smaller rooms
- Change larger meeting room to a reading room
- Space for art exhibits or makerspace

Meeting Room
- Promote meeting room space more to the public
- Rent meeting space for community/nonprofit use or equipment rentals
- Have a room set up with desktop computers and rent the room as a training space

Opportunities
- Murals or mosaics in stairwells leading to the second floor
- Public restroom accessible to everyone on this floor
- Add more reading tables

Note: this floor contains spaces for BPL’s Adult Learning program. Specific engagements will need to be conducted with their patrons in the future.

“Never seen this space though I have been using this library for decades.”

“It’s a beautiful space — it would be nice if it housed a collection so it was used beyond meetings.”

“Most people don’t even know about these spaces!”
“The library creates opportunities for learning. It allows a second chance of getting an education.”

Patron that visits the area for appointments | Survey