Brooklyn Public Library (BPL) is redeveloping the old Sunset Park Library to better meet neighborhood needs!

The redevelopment – which includes a bigger, brand new library in addition to 49 units of affordable housing - will be completed in late 2020, with the library opening in 2021. In order to ensure that the new Library reflects the needs of the community, BPL partnered with Hester Street and Grain Collective on an eight-month engagement process from January to August 2017. We gathered ideas and feedback from hundreds of residents and stakeholders on design elements, programming, and features for the new space.

**ENGAGEMENT PROCESS**

The overarching goal for the process was to ensure meaningful, inclusive and expansive engagement that resulted in a community-driven design for the new Sunset Park Library. The team partnered with dozens of local stakeholders to reach residents of different ages and backgrounds through events at the Library and the neighborhood. We held many stakeholder meetings, talked to library staff, collected surveys, hosted large workshops, displayed materials in partner organization offices and held events in Arabic, Chinese, English and Spanish.

![Map of engagement activities and types](image)

The following priority areas were identified by stakeholders:

**LOCAL PARTNERS**

- Fifth Avenue Committee
- Center for Family Life/SCO
- Chinese American Planning Council-NYC
- Council Member Carlos Menchaca’s Office
- Congresswoman Nydia Velázquez’s Office
- Center Against Domestic Violence
- NYU Lutheran Family Health Centers
- Southwest Brooklyn Industrial Development Corporation
- Community Board 7
- Assemblyman Felix Ortiz
- Arab American Association - NY

**PRIORITY AREAS**

- FEATURES
- PROGRAMS
- SPACE
Your input directly impacted the new Library’s design!

BPL shared your ideas and visions for the new Library with the architects. Here is how community feedback and needs from the engagement process has been incorporated into the new space!

### WHAT WE HEARD

### NEW SPACE DESIGN

**Space Separation: Different areas for different programs and users**

- The 3 major user groups—Children, Teens and Adults—will have distinct and separate spaces tailored to each group's specific needs:
  - The Children’s area is located on the 2nd floor for security concerns, and to allow for louder play and activities. It includes dedicated areas for toddler play, homework tables and desktop computers.
  - The Teen area is located on the 1st Floor with both lounge seating and homework tables.
  - Adult areas are located on both floors for maximum flexibility, and include a mix of lounge seating and reading tables.

**Technology Access: Wi-Fi, more access to laptops/computers, technology lab and training**

- Free Wi-Fi access throughout library.
- All reading and homework tables equipped with charging outlets.
- Laptop lockers will allow patrons to borrow a laptop with their library card for use in the library.
- Meeting rooms on both floors can accommodate laptop computer training sessions.

**Meeting Space: Free meeting and classroom space and a large flexible space for community needs**

- A large flexible meeting room that can accommodate more than 110 seats will be located on the 1st floor. The large meeting room—which can also be divided into two smaller rooms—is accessible through the main entrance and can be used for community events after library hours.
- A second flexible meeting room is located on the 1st Floor next to the Teen area. It will include a 3d printing station.
- Both meeting rooms are equipped with built-in projectors, projection screens and a sink.

**ADA Accessibility**

- The library is completely ADA accessible with an elevator and an ADA accessible restroom.

**Area for local art and information about community events and resources**

- The 1st floor window will be available for display of community art projects and/or information.

**More restrooms: gender neutral and family restrooms and drinking fountains**

- All restrooms will be gender neutral.
- At least two restrooms will be provided on each floor. The 1st floor will have more restrooms to accommodate users of the large meeting room.
- At least one changing table will be provided on each floor.
- Drinking fountains with a bottle filler will be provided on each floor.

### TIMELINE

The process began in 2016 with ULURP. Construction of the building began in early 2019 and will be complete by late 2020. The new library is slated to open in 2021. In the meantime, your local library is being housed in the same building as Community Board 7 on 4201 4th Avenue (at 43rd Street) and will remain open until the permanent branch opens.