CANARSIE LIBRARY RENOVATION
COMMUNITY REPORT BACK!

APRIL 2, 2024
6:30PM
Canarsie Library
Alex Tretiak, Branch Manager
Canarsie Library
AGENDA

01 Welcome
   Alex Tretiak, Branch Manager, Canarsie Library, Brooklyn Public Library

02 Background
   Michele Bonan, VP Government & Community Relations, Brooklyn Public Library

03 Design Presentation
   Wendy Evans Joseph, Principal, Studio Joseph

04 Next Steps + Questions
   Moderator: LaMeane Isaac, Regional Director Office of Neighborhood Services, Brooklyn Public Library
Brooklyn Public Library is in the midst of our most significant era of rebuilding in history, with one third of the Library’s system recently rebuilt or renovated.

Canarsie Library requires significant infrastructure upgrade

$20M allocated in NYC Capital funding from the City and Council Member Narcisse for a comprehensive branch renovation

Architects, Studio Joseph selected

Community Engagement Process, developed and carried out in partnership with Hester Street
In spring, summer and fall of 2022, Brooklyn Public Library and Hester Street, in coordination with the architects at Studio Joseph developed a community engagement process to help inform the branch’s redesign.

The library engaged close to 300 Canarsie residents, library patrons, community organizations, elected representatives, service providers, library staff and other key stakeholders in a participatory design process.

The goal was to create a community-driven design process resulting in a new library that is truly reflective of the priorities and concerns of Canarsie stakeholders.
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Engagement by the Numbers:

- 95 surveys from library patrons and stakeholders
- 11 stakeholder meetings
- 4 Bookmobile events
- 2 public workshops

Who We’ve Talked to:

- Local community members
- Schools
- Elected representatives
- Community-based organizations
In the Renovated Canarsie Library, Community Members Want to See:

- More natural light, nature, and plants inside
- Individual spaces
- Community and workshop spaces
- A second floor to enhance neighborhood presence and add space
- An expanded children's area
- Enhanced ADA accessibility
- Expanded book collection with local authors and culturally responsive books
- Varied, moveable, and multipurpose furniture
- Indoor and outdoor movie nights
- Colorful spaces
- Material and stroller storage
- More programs:
  - More weekend & family programs
  - ESL, tutoring, & literacy classes
  - Financial literacy classes
  - Storytime
  - Tech classes
  - Physical & mental health programs
- More charging stations
- More computer, printing, and technology access
- An outdoor space with a community garden, reading areas, and furniture
- Displays of art and events
- About local history and culture
- Solar power, flood protection, and back-up generators
- Clear sightlines
Wendy Evans Joseph, Principal
Studio Joseph
Canarsie Branch
Community Board Meeting

Hello!

04.03.2024
Agenda

01. Hello - Introductions
02. What we heard - developing a program
03. Site analysis - what we are able to build
04. What we heard - developing a program
05. Exterior and interior designs - artworks/murals
06. Moving forward
07. Questions and comments
What we heard.
We believe the process is part of the solution. The way we work together determines the design.
What we heard

- Welcoming Entry
- Outdoor Space/Garden
- Views Out/Views in to street
- After Hours/Community Room
- Community Art
- Quiet Space/Lounge Space
- Tech Help
- Stroller storage

- Lactation room
- Separate teen+children’s Areas
- Direct observation of teen areas
- Private staff offices/ meeting spaces/more space per staff
- Parking
Existing Context
Rear view from easement
Site Analysis
Canarsie Library | Existing Site Plan

ROCKAWAY PARKWAY

Avenue J

Existing Single-family home

Existing One Story Library Building

Existing Commercial Buildings

rear yard setback

easement area

property line

property line

118'-3"

103'-3"

15'-0"

68'-11"

17'-4"

103'-3"
7,159 TOTAL SQ. FT.

Canarsie Library | Existing Ground Floor Plan
ADVANTAGES OF NEW BUILDING:

- **Higher ceiling height.** On all levels, this creates more inviting public spaces with increased natural light.

- **Maximizes the floor area.** Helps fulfill library’s programmatic needs and community spaces and specific areas for different age groups. Allows for outdoor terrace on 2nd floor.

- **Expands the lower level.** This is more feasible/economical with new construction. Allows the capture of utility entry points and isolated mechanical rooms.

- **Setbacks are useful.** The zoning setbacks allow front and side areas can be used for green space, mechanical areas, and parking.

- **Efficiency.** A new building massing maximizes program and supports strategic adjacencies.

- **Constructability.** Open site reduces cost associated with securing an existing building and minimizes unforeseen site issues.
EXISTING GROUND FLOOR + LOWER LEVEL
NEW SECOND FLOOR
8,394 SF

NEW BUILDING - 2 STORIES + LOWER LEVEL
10,215 SF
PROPOSED BUILDING 9,205 SF = 9 PARKING SPOTS

REQUIRED OFF-STREET PARKING FOR PERMITTED NON-RESIDENTIAL USES: ZR 25-31

LIBRARIES IN R 4 - 1 ZONING DISTRICTS: 1 PARKING SPACE / 1,000 SF
Views
Front view looking southwest | Rockaway Parkway
Canarsie Library | Entry, Front Facade
Canarsie Library | Existing Ground Floor Plan

7,159 TOTAL SQ. FT.
SECOND FLOOR
4,041 TOTAL SQ. FT.
THANK YOU!
LaMeane Isaac, Regional Director
Brooklyn Public Library

Alex Tretiak, Branch Manager
Canarsie Library
We expect construction to begin in Spring 2025 and to finish in Summer 2027. Updates on construction and interim programming will be finalized closer to 2025.
Questions?

Thank You!