

**THE UNIFIED GOVERNMENT OF ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM**

SUBJECT: SPLOST 2020 Project 25 - East Side Library Project, Proposed Schematic Design

DATE: January 28, 2025 ~~December 19, 2024~~

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Requesting the approval of the Proposed Schematic Design for the new East Side Library, with the items that will be carried as potential alternates, if future cost estimates increase. If approved the design team will proceed into the final phases of the design and contractor bidding. The next time M&C would see this project, unless additional funding is obtained, would be at the construction contract award stage.

BUDGET INFORMATION:

REVENUES:

\$ 14,160,020	SPLOST 2020 Project 25 (All Tiers)
\$ 2,000,000	State Grant Funding
<hr/>	\$ 16,160,020 Total Revenue

EXPENSES:

CAPITAL:

\$ 866,974	Expensed or Encumbered
\$ 35,000	Designated Additional Design & Construction Admin. Services
\$ 1,229,367	Designated Testing, Permitting, Utilities, PM Fees, and Commissioning
\$ 61,000	Designated Public Art - Sub-Project (SP) #1
\$ 1,000,000	Designated Fixtures, Furnishings & Equipment
\$ 2,000,000	Designated Books and Resources
\$ 1,278,679	Designated Design and Construction Contingency
<hr/>	\$ 9,689,000 Designated for Construction

OPERATIONAL: \$753,000

FUNDING SOURCE: CAPITAL - SPLOST 2020 Program Revenues/Financing, State Grant Funding
OPERATIONAL – GENERAL FUND

COMMISSION ACTION REQUESTED ON: February 4, 2024

PURPOSE:

To request that the Mayor and Commission:

- a. Approve the Proposed Schematic Design, for SPLOST 2020 Project 25 - East Side Library Project as generally shown on **Attachment #1**;
- b. Authorize staff to advance the East Side Public Library (SPLOST 2020 Project 25) to the Final

Design and the Construction Bidding and Award Phase; and,

- c. Authorize the Mayor and appropriate staff to execute necessary documents to develop the East Side Public Library.

HISTORY:

1. On September 19, 2007, the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission (NEGRC) entered into a lease agreement with the Athens-Clarke County Public Building Authority (PFA), for 305 Research Drive. The NEGRC entered into the agreement and transferred the property to the PFA. The agreement allowed the issuance of revenue bonds to finance the renovation of the NEGRC property and provided the NEGRC the opportunity to reacquire the property when the bonds were paid in full (History #32).
2. On August 6, 2019, the M&C approved the Call for the SPLOST 2020 Referendum, which included the East Side Public Library (Project 25). The approved budget for the project was \$14,499,000 with the acknowledgement that the cost of Land Acquisition was not included in the approved project budget.
3. On November 5, 2019, Athens-Clarke County (ACC) voters approved the SPLOST 2020 Program Referendum. This Referendum included the East Side Public Library (Project 25).
4. On February 2, 2021, the M&C approved the 2020 SPLOST Tier Funding Schedule. Allocating funds for this project across all Tiers but with the funding for design to begin in FY22 and Construction across FY23 and FY24.
5. On May 10, 2021, the Athens Cultural Affairs Commission (ACAC) approved a recommendation to the M&C that this project as appropriate for Public Art.
6. In July 2021, the ACC Regional Library Board of Trustees approved the hiring of McMillan Pazdan Smith to develop a preliminary program for the East Side Public Library. This program was to better understand the needs of the library and to help apply for state funding for the library project.
7. In July 2021, Manager Williams selected the User Group (UG) Members for the SPLOST 2020 Project 25 - East Side Library Project to help ensure the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County (ACCGov) long terms goals are promoted during the Project Development process. The User Group Members are:
 - Valerie Bell
 - Beth Smith
 - Jane Russell
 - Toby Mayfield
 - Lawrence Harris
 - Greg Deal
 - Terris Thomas

- Mike Wharton (Ex-Officio)

8. On April 5, 2022, the M&C approved the designation of McMillan Pazdan Smith as the highest scoring firm for Professional Design and Construction Administration Services for the project and authorized staff to negotiate a final scope of services and fees with McMillan Pazdan Smith for a not-to-exceed contract amount of \$750,000.
9. Between May 2022 and August 2022, the design team worked with the User Group and Site Selection Committee (SSC) to develop the site selection criteria and project concept.
10. On June 19, 2022, an initial programming session was held with key staff of the existing libraries in the Athens Regional Library system.
11. On August 8, 2022, the SSC voted to recommend the Proposed Site Selection Criteria to M&C for their consideration during the September Work Session.
12. On August 18, 2022, the User Group recommended the Proposed Project Concept and Site Selection Criteria to M&C for consideration during the September 2022 Work Session.
13. On September 13, 2022, during the regularly scheduled work session, the Proposed Project Concept and Site Selection Criteria, for the East Side Public Library, were presented to and reviewed by the M&C.
14. On September 15, 2022, information from the Work Session and the drafts of the Proposed Project Concept and Site Selection Criteria were posted to the SPLOST website for public review and feedback.
15. On October 1, 2022, the first public engagement session was held at Fire Station #7 on Barnett Shoals Road.
16. On October 3, 2022, two additional public engagement sessions were held. The first was at Living Hope Church and the second was at the East Athens Development Corporation.
17. On October 12, 2022, the SSC reviewed the Site Selection Criteria and the comments from the Public Input Sessions. The SSC recommended the Site Selection Criteria for approval by the M&C.
18. On November 10, 2022, the on-line public input results were received for the Proposed Project Concept and Site Selection Criteria. There were 289 responses to the online public input and over 60 people attended the three in person sessions.
19. On November 1, 2022, the M&C approved the Project Concept and Site Selection Criteria and authorized the SSC to advance the project into Stage II of the Major Site Selection Process and ultimately to develop the Candidate Sites list.

20. On March 13, 2023, the SSC reviewed the list of Potential Sites for the project and recommended 8 Potential Sites to go out for public input.

21. Between April 28, 2023 and May 21, 2023, the SSC and staff conducted an on-line survey, three public input sessions at different locations across the County, and tabling events in an effort to inform residents about the Potential Sites and to give residents the opportunity to provide public input on the Potential Sites. There was a total of 232 responses to the online public input and over 60 people attended the three in person sessions. The full listing of all 232 public comments that were received can be viewed at:
https://link.edgepilot.com/s/ac78a36c/b35RsOk-S0e_A8OtvgWMg?u=https://arcg.is/0avav0

22. On June 8, 2023, the UG met to review the Potential Sites and the public input received on the Potential Sites. The UG voted unanimously to recommend the sites listed below as the three recommended Candidate Sites:

- 1030 Barnett Shoals Rd. – Current undeveloped property owned by ACCGov
- 280 Gaines School Rd. – Current location of the CCSD Early Learning Center
- 2000 Barnett Shoals Rd. – Current location of the “old Kmart” and Kroger/College Station shopping center

23. On June 12, 2023, the SSC met to review the Potential Sites, the public input received on the Potential Sites, the evaluations by the design team, and the User Group recommendation. The SSC unanimously approved the User Group’s recommended sites and added a fourth. Additionally, the SSC decided to seek additional information before forwarding their recommendation to the M&C. The four sites approved by the SSC were as follows:

- 1030 Barnett Shoals Rd. – Current undeveloped property owned by ACCGov
- 280 Gaines School Rd. – Current location of the CCSD Early Learning Center
- 2000 Barnett Shoals Rd. – Current location of the “old Kmart” and Kroger/College Station shopping center
- 1935 Barnett Shoals Rd – Current Green Acres Shopping Center

24. On July 10, 2023, the SSC met to review the potential sites. The SSC unanimously approved removing 1935 Barnett Shoals Rd (Current Green Acres Shopping Center) from as a recommended site and replace it with a new site, approving four sites in total. The four sites approved by the SSC were as follows:

- 1030 Barnett Shoals Rd – Current undeveloped property owned by ACCGov
- 280 Gaines School Rd. – Current location of the CCSD Early Learning Center
- 2000 Barnett Shoals Rd., 2301 College Station Rd. – Current location of the “old K-Mart” and Kroger/College Station shopping center
- 4440 Lexington Rd – Current location of Southeast Clarke Park

25. On August 1, 2023, the M&C approved the list of four candidate sites presented by the SSC

as listed in History #24 and authorized the SSC to enter Stage III of the ACCGov Site Selection Process for technical and cost evaluations of the candidate sites, candidate site rankings and recommendation to the M&C of site acquisition.

26. On September 28, 2023, the UG met to review the Candidate Sites' technical and cost evaluations, done by the design team, and unanimously voted to rank the Candidate Sites in the following order:

User Group Candidate Site Ranking:

1. 2000 Barnett Shoals Rd., 2301 College Station Rd. – Current location of the “old K-Mart” and Kroger/College Station shopping center
2. 1030 Barnett Shoals Rd – Current undeveloped property owned by ACCGov

Candidate Sites Recommended to be removed from consideration

- 4440 Lexington Rd – Current location of Southeast Clarke Park
- 280 Gaines School Rd. – Current location of the CCSD Early Learning Center

27. On October 3, 2023, the SSC voted unanimously to rank the sites in the order below:

Site Selection Committee Candidate Site Ranking:

1. 2000 Barnett Shoals Rd., 2301 College Station Rd. – Current location of the “old K-Mart” and Kroger/College Station shopping center
2. 1030 Barnett Shoals Rd – Current undeveloped property owned by ACCGov
2. 4440 Lexington Rd – Current location of Southeast Clarke Park

Candidate Sites Recommended, by the SSC, to be removed from consideration

- 280 Gaines School Rd. – Current location of the CCSD Early Learning Center

28. On November 7, 2023, the M&C reviewed the candidate sites information and recommendation of the SSC. The M&C recommended moving forward with the 2000 Barnett Shoals Rd site and approved staff to begin negotiations with Kroger for acquiring the property.

29. On May 3, 2024, the M&C reviewed the offers from Kroger for the 2000 Barnett Shoals Rd property and the recommendation from Staff to pursue other site options. M&C directed staff move forward with the 1030 Barnett Shoals Rd site but also requested that staff engage the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission (NEGRC) and look at the possibility of shared use on the 1030 Barnett Shoals Rd site.

30. On May 10, 2024, staff met with NEGRC staff to discuss the building needs of the NEGRC and the potential for shared use operations.

31. On June 25, 2024, NEGRC requested, pursuant to the lease agreement from September 19, 2007 (History #1), that ACCGov transfer ownership of the property from the Athens-Clarke

County Public Building Authority (PFA) for 305 Research Drive, the current NEGC offices, to the NEGRC.

32. On July 30, 2024, staff and the design team met with the NEGRC to go over design options and the associated cost. At this meeting it was determined that the funding available to the NEGRC was not sufficient to cover the programming needs desired by the NEGRC.
33. On September 3, 2024, M&C took the following actions:
 - Approved 1030 Barnett Shoals (Parcel 174D 005) as the site for the East Side Public Library (SPLOST 2020 Project 25);
 - Authorized staff to advance the East Side Public Library (SPLOST 2020 Project 25) to the Schematic Design; and,
 - Designated the East Side Library Project (SPLOST 2020 Project 05) as appropriate for Public Art with a proposed budget of \$61,000.
34. On November 12, 2024 the Proposed Schematic Design for SPLOST 2020 Project 25 - East Side Library Project was presented at the M&C Work Session.
35. On November 22, 2024 the on-line public engagement process opened for the Proposed Schematic Design for SPLOST 2020 Project 25 - East Side Library Project.
36. On December 4, 2024, a Public Information Session for the Proposed Schematic Design was held at the Athens Regional Library on Baxter Street.
37. On December 15, 2024, two Public Information Sessions for the Proposed Schematic Design were held at the Athens-Clarke County Firestation #7.
38. On December 15th, 2024, the online public input survey for the Proposed Schematic Design closed and the results were compiled. A full listing of the public comments received can be viewed at:
<https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/ac72942c1dcb414ba3778f0ae7d4e8ac/result>
39. On December 19, 2024, the UG met to review the Proposed Schematic Design concepts and the public input received on the Schematic Design. The UG voted unanimously to recommend the Proposed Schematic Design, as shown in **Attachment #1**.
40. On January 10, 2025, the design professional, MPS, presented, to staff, the completed the Schematic Design cost estimate that had been completed by their Cost Estimating subconsultant. The estimate was based on the Schematic Design that was presented to M&C at the work session and to the public.
41. On January 15, 2025, the UG met to review the Schematic Design Estimate and the potential list of items that could be considered as alternates.

FACTS & ISSUES:

1. The Initial Project Statement for SPLOST 2020 Project 25 East Side Library Project reads as follows:

Project 25, East Side Library Project, will provide funding for land acquisition, design, construction, and/or equipping of a facility and/or renovations, improvements, additions to, and equipping of an existing facility for the purpose of extending library services to county residents on the east side of Athens-Clarke County. This annex facility would be a full-service library consistent with the level of resources and services provided at other similarly situated public libraries in the county. Depending upon costs and funding availability, the facility may include, but not be limited to, spaces such as meeting rooms, study rooms, children's area, teen area, popular reading space, computer spaces, a creation space complete with digital and modern technology, innovative spaces and technology, and associated parking and general infrastructure to support the facility. This project may also provide funding for the purchase of enhanced technology, access improvements for the disabled, and purchase of library resources for the Athens-Clarke County Libraries. Additionally, to the extent allowed by law, funds may be used as matching funds for leveraging grant opportunities.

2. Based on the above Initial Project Statement (F&I #1) and with consideration of feedback received from the three public engagement sessions (History #15 and 16), the M&C approved the Project Concept.
3. In addition to the public engagement for the Site Selection Process and the Project Concept Phase, three in-person public engagement sessions were held (History #34 and #35) where public comments were taken for the schematic design. Also, there was also an online public input survey, to get feedback on the Schematic Design, that was live from 11/22 to 12/15, which received a total of 97 responses. The complete responses are provided in **Attachment #2**.
4. During these sessions, the public gave input on the floor plan, site plan, and the interior/exterior color palettes of the building. Approximately 30 people attended the in-person sessions to give their input on the Schematic Design. These two public engagement efforts were then summarized by the design team and the results were presented to the User Group on 12/19.
5. The User Group reviewed all of the information received from the public engagement effort and information from the design team before unanimously recommending the Proposed Schematic Design package. The public comments were split on color options. The on-line comments were in favor of the blue canopy color scheme while the in-person comments preferred the orange color scheme. In addition to the in-person comments, the User Group unanimously chose the marigold/orange color scheme because it will likely hold its color longer (i.e. less fade), will blend and contrast with the natural landscape better, will blend with the natural exposed (underside of the roof) wood grain structure better. The User Group

agreed with the public input that interior color concepts #3 were preferred but also asked that specifically some of the sharper shapes and images, inspired by Harriet Power's quilts in Concept #1, be incorporated into the color scheme.

6. The Proposed Schematic Design (**Attachment #1**) includes the site plan, proposed floor plan, overall building sections and elevations, and recommended interior and exterior material concepts. The Proposed Schematic Design is based on achieving the required certification for sustainability using the Earthcraft Rating.
7. In addition to the Proposed Schematic Design Elements, as generally shown on **Attachment #1**, the Proposed Schematic Design for the building will include the following:
 - All design and efficiency standards to achieve Earthcraft Certification, as required by ACCGov Sustainability Policy;
 - Paved plaza gathering area in front of the Library;
 - Capacity for building expansion by additional 14,000 Sq. ft.;
 - Parking, site amenities, and utilities for the initial 16,000 sq. ft. and the future expansion;
 - Library wall signage on the canopy, which would be above the roofline of the building;
 - Transit Stop Improvements for the Library;
 - Meeting Rooms that can be used for polling places (electrial connection need for polling equipment will be coordinated with Board of Elections);
 - Potential connection points for the Greenway are shown but are not currently in the budget;
 - Potential outdoor programming space is shown to reserve the space but is not currently in the budget;
 - Materials, Fixtures, & Equipment for the new library are include with separate designated amounts shown in the budget section;
 - Structural capacity and conduits for solar panels on the roof and/or arrays on the site (solar equipment and installation is intended to be funded by SPLOST 2020 Project 11);
 - Dedicated EV parking spaces are shown to be provided (Equipment and installation of the EV Charging stations are to intended to be funded by SPLOST 2020 Project 11);
 - Mid-Block Pedestrian Crossing for Barnett Shoals (as noted below, construction cost are not included in the current budget)
8. The design professional completed their Schematic Design Estimate and presented those results to staff on January 10, 2025 (History #40). The construction estimate for the project was approximately \$10,569,000, as shown in the table below; which is \$880,000 over the currently available \$9,689,000 Construction Budget.
9. In order to bring the current estimated cost construction down to the from the current construction budget of \$9,689,000 staff recommends the following changes to project funding to align with the available funding options:

\$ 10,569,000		Original Construction Estimate
\$ (425,000)		Remove Solar Panels and EV Charging Equipment from the Estimate – Propose those items to be funded from SPLOST 2020 – Project 11 Renewable Energy. Structural supports and conduits for solar to remain in the estimate.
\$ (604,000)		Remove Signalized Pedestrian Cross-walk from the Estimate – Propose to be funded from future TSPLOST Project, and/or future earned interest
\$ 9,540,000		Revised Construction Estimate

10. Anticipated remaining timeline for the East Side Library design and construction are as follows:

- Schematic Design to M&C Consideration February 2025
- Final Design Completion November 2025
- Bidding (Start) December 2025 ~~Winter 2026~~
- Contractor Award for M&C Consideration February 2026 ~~Winter 2025~~
- Start Project Construction Phase April 2026 ~~Spring 2025/6~~
- Library Opening August 2027
- Project Completion Summer 2027

11. In addition to the above noted M&C touch points, the following will be other project related items to come back to the M&C for consideration:

- Public Art location selection, type and style, with the timing to be determined by ACAC;
- Materials, Fixtures, & Equipment purchases that require M&C approval, if any; and,
- Project Concepts for other SPLOST and TSPLOST projects to provide funding for elements such as: Solar equipment & installation, EV Charging Stations, and Pedestrian Improvements along Barnett Shoals.

12. This recommendation supports the following ACCGov Strategic Plan Goal & Strategy:

Identify and Close Gaps in Partnership with the Community Goal, Strategy C: *Identify ways to address unaddressed community needs and develop Identify ways to address unaddressed community needs and develop programs, policies, and processes to facilitate community transformation.*

OPTIONS:

1. Mayor and Commission:
 - a. Approve the Proposed Schematic Design, for SPLOST 2020 Project 25 - East Side Library Project as generally shown on **Attachment #1**;
 - b. Authorize staff to advance the East Side Public Library (SPLOST 2020 Project 25) to the Final Design and the Construction Bidding and Award Phase; and,
 - c. Authorize the Mayor and appropriate staff to execute necessary documents to develop the East Side Public Library.

2. Mayor and Commission do not approve the Proposed Schematic Design for SPLOST 2020 Project 25, East Side Public Library.
3. Mayor and Commission defined option.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED ACTION: Option #1 a, b, & c

DEPARTMENT: Capital Project Department

Prepared by: John Simoneaux



Josh Hawkins, Capital Projects Director

12/19/2026

Date

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS:

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION: Option #1 a, b, & c



Andrew Saunders
Interim Assistant Manager

1/15/25

Date

ATTACHMENTS:

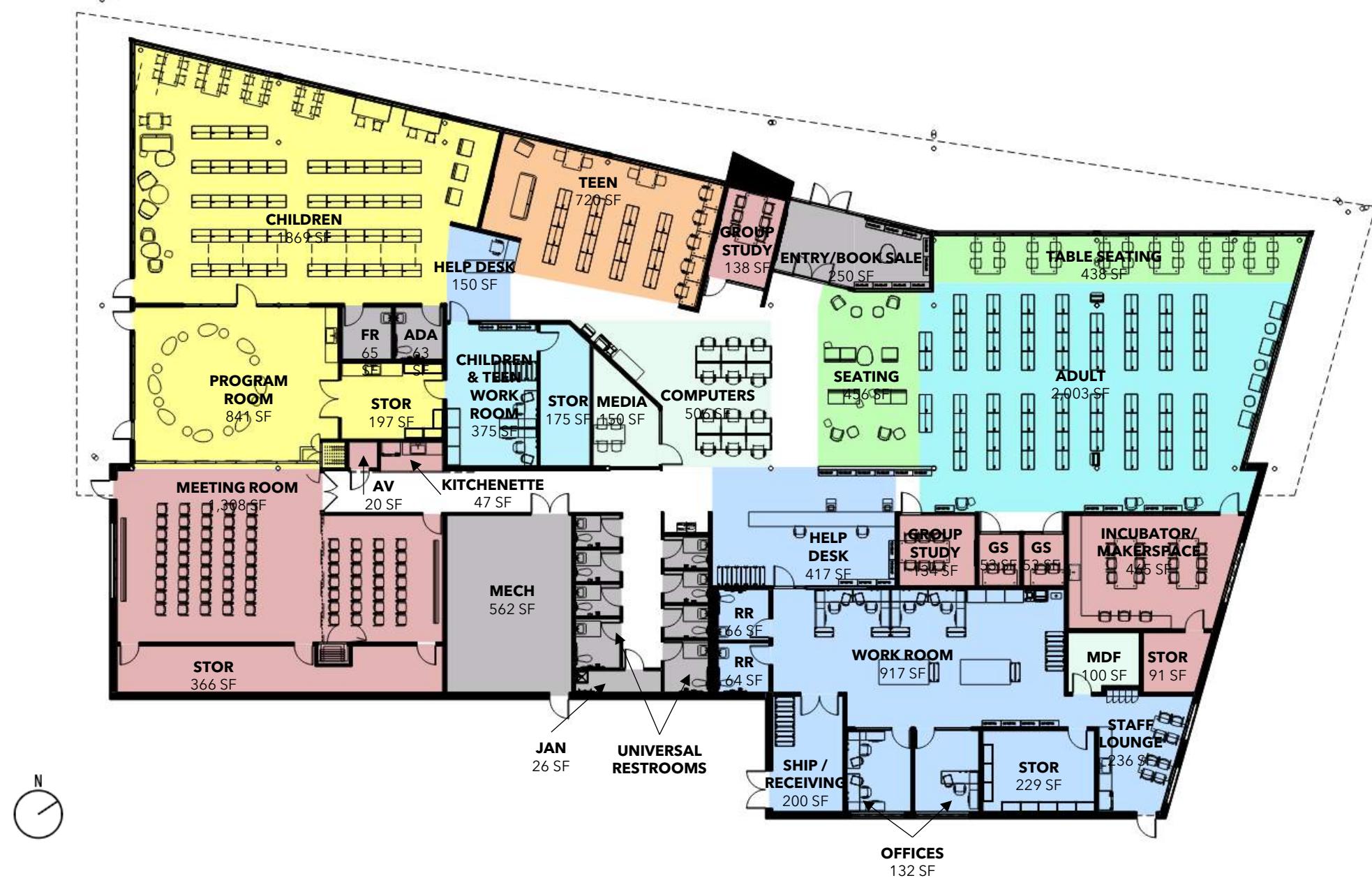
Attachment #1 – Proposed Schematic Design
Attachment #2 – Public Comments

ATHENS EAST SIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY

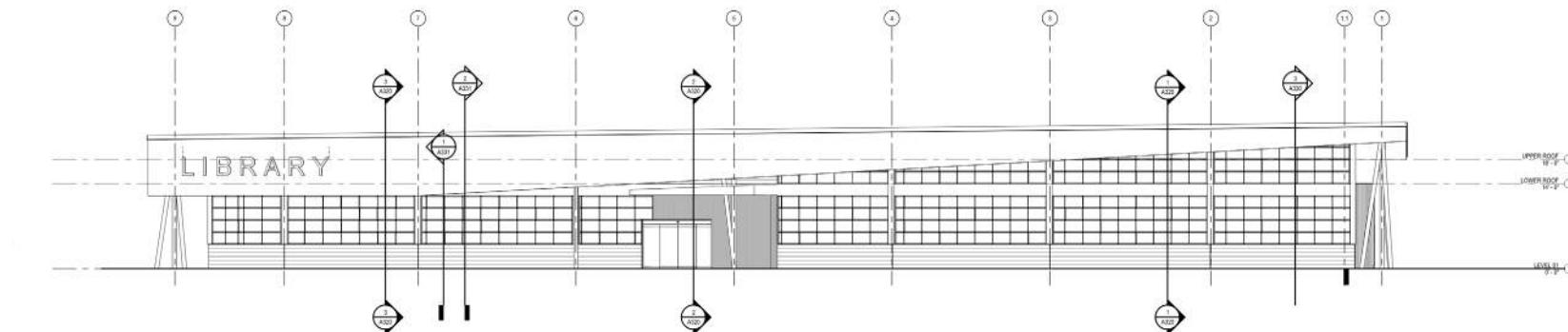
Schematic Design Progress – December 05, 2024



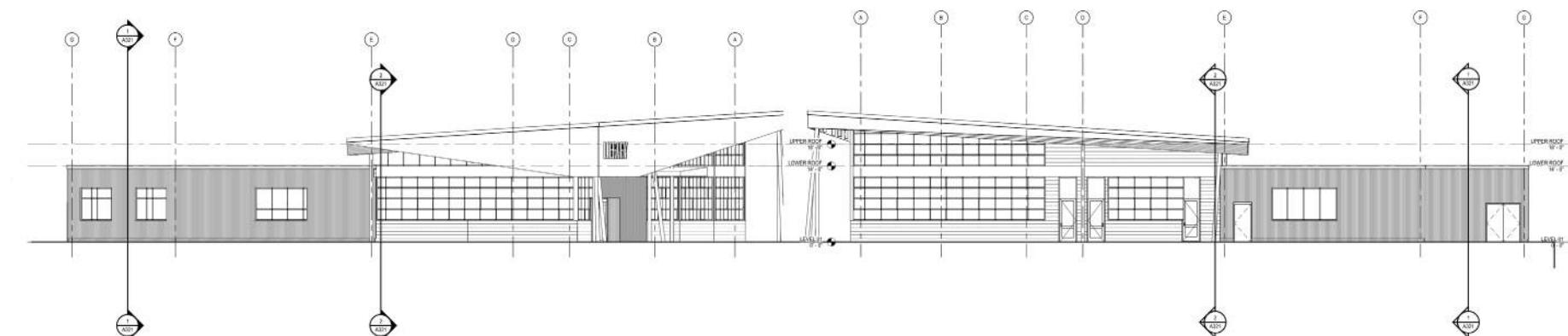
OVERALL - FLOOR PLAN



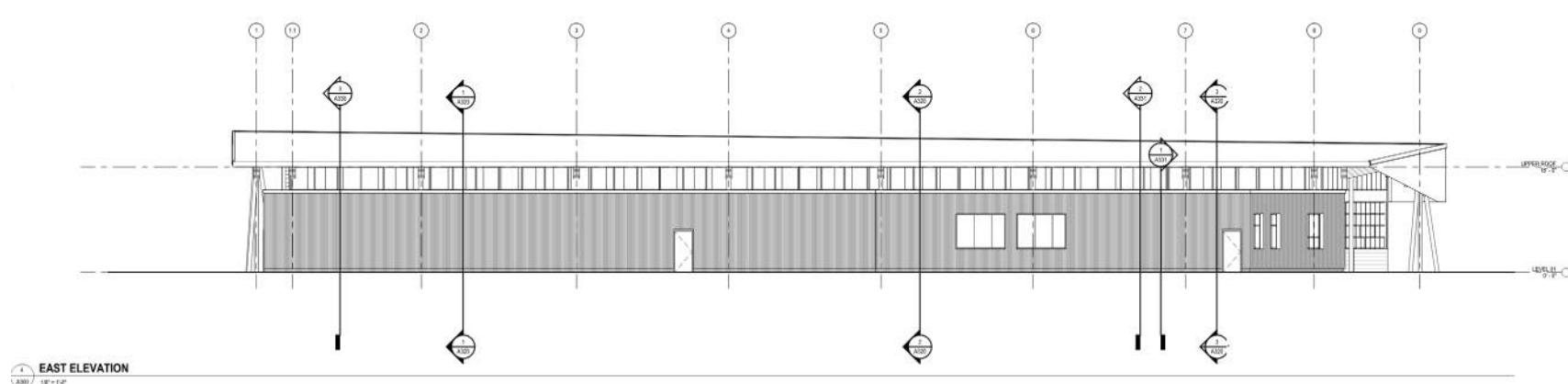
OVERALL - ELEVATIONS



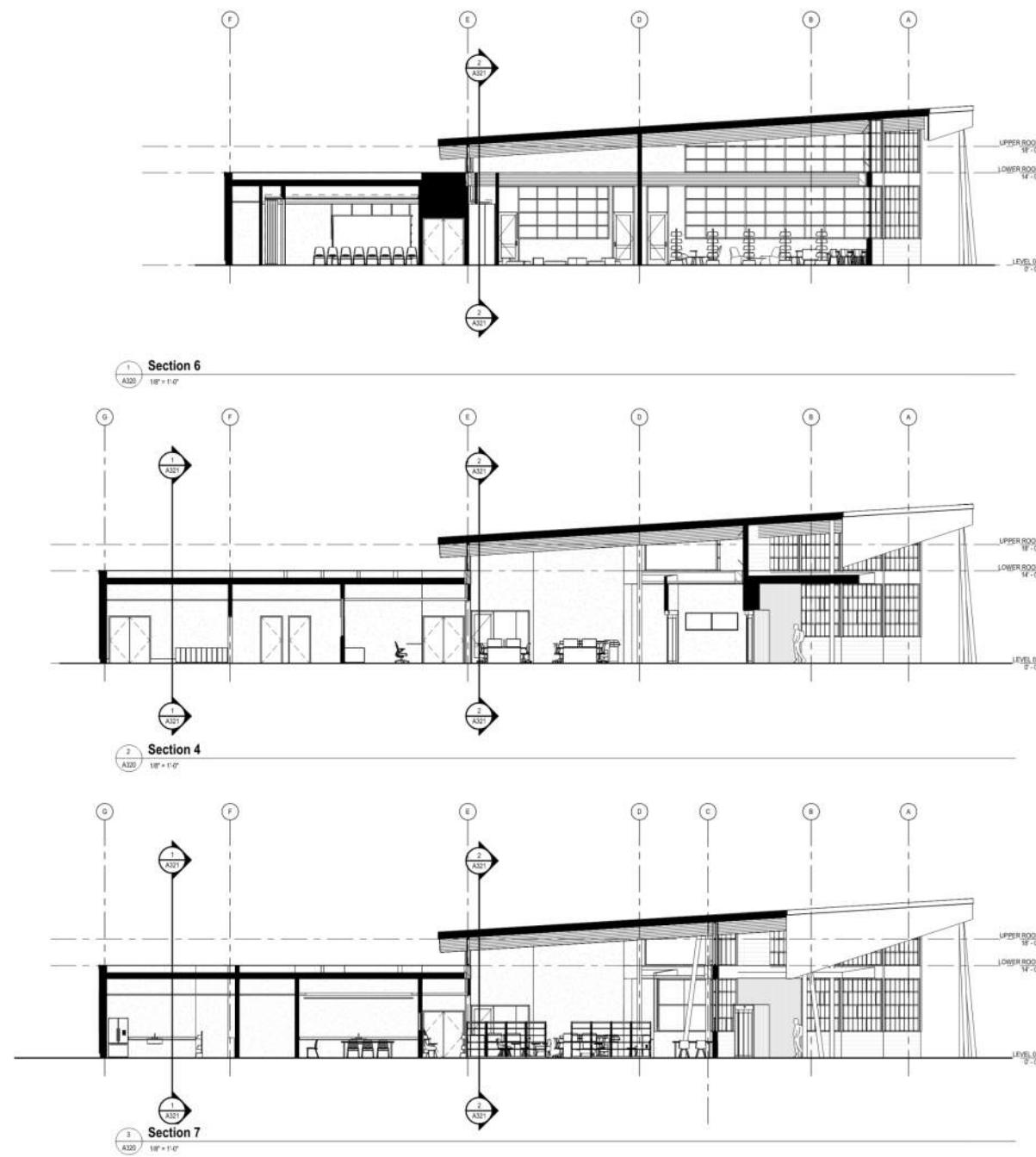
1
A380
WEST ELEVATION
180' x 1'-0"



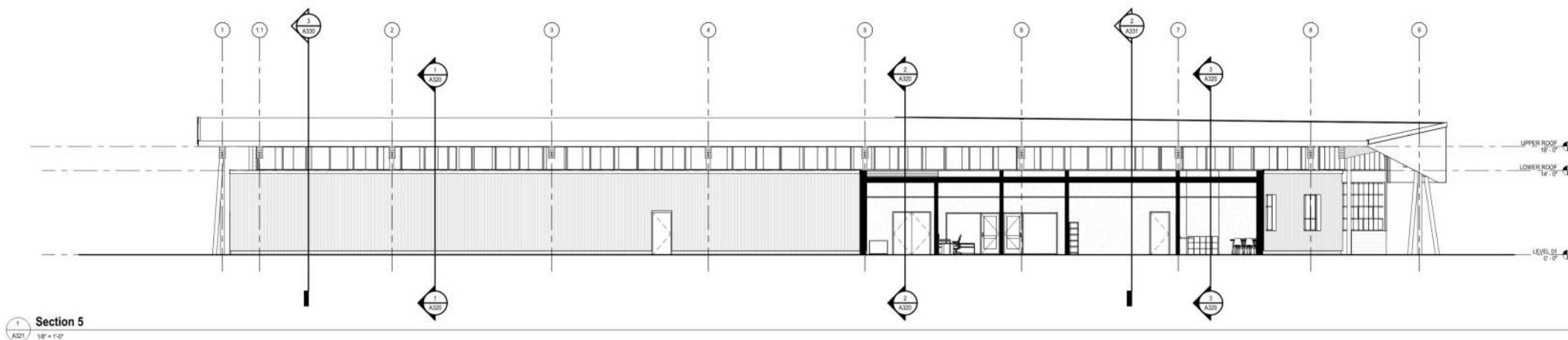
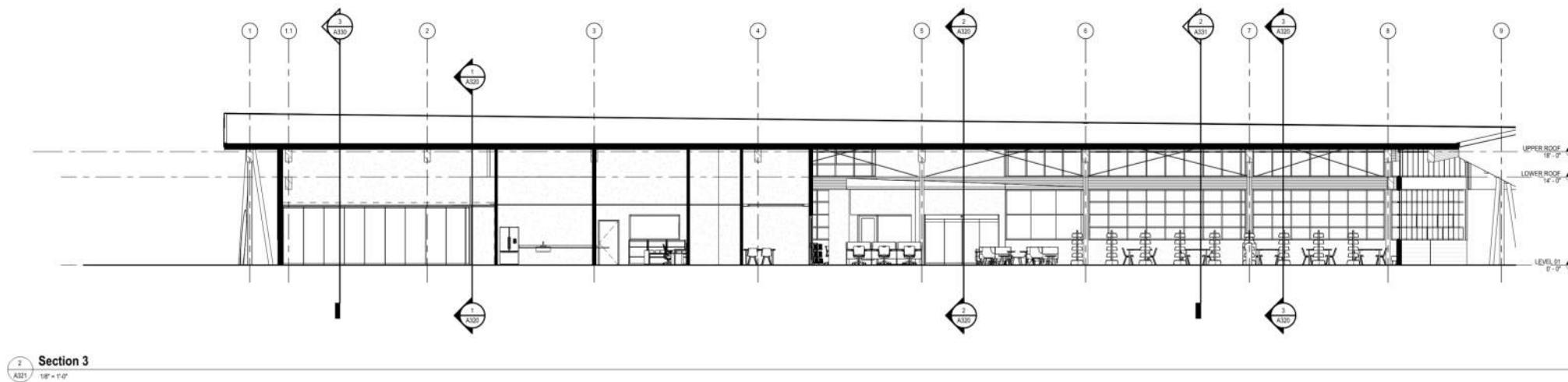
2
A300
18' x 1'-6"



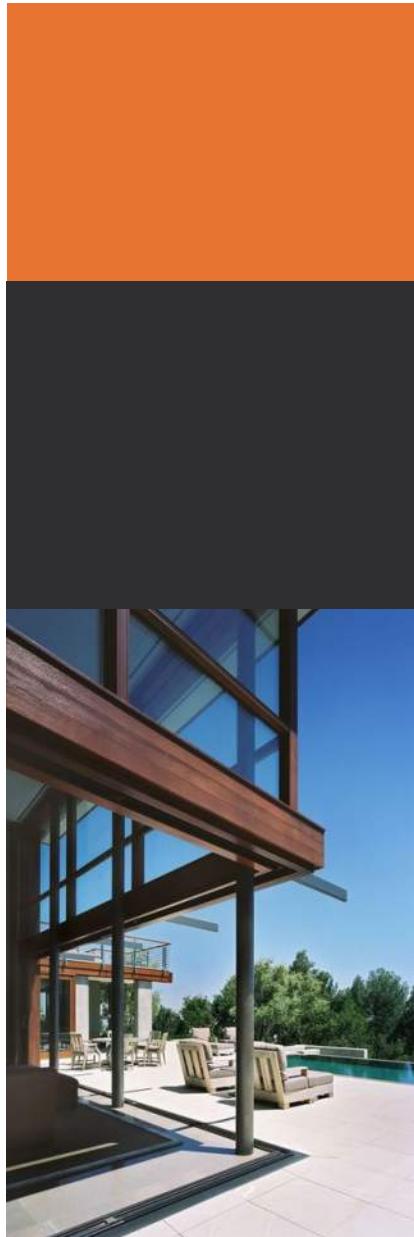
OVERALL - SECTIONS



OVERALL - SECTIONS



MATERIAL CONCEPT 3



MATERIAL CONCEPT 3



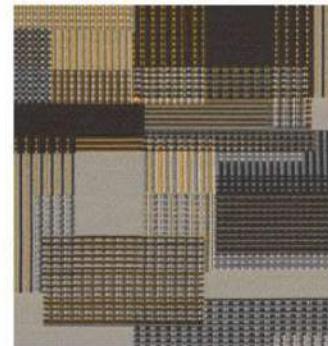
INTERIOR MATERIAL CONCEPT 1

Backstitch Biography

Drawing inspiration from Athens' rich heritage and the unique forms in Harriet Power's quilts, this design showcases a blend of varied textures and warm, earthy tones complemented by soft accents. The interplay of materials and textures creates a tactile experience that pays homage to the surrounding community. Organic shapes and patterns reflect the fluidity of the fabrics in her quilts, inviting the creation of new experiences in a distinctive setting.



Textural
Detailed
Soft accents
Grounded
Soothing



INTERIOR MATERIAL CONCEPT 1

interface | DOT 2 DOT



shaw | KNITSTITCH



shaw | ETCHED



INTERIOR MATERIAL CONCEPT 1

ivy hill | QUINCY BLUE TILE



shaw | NATIVE FABRIC LVT



shaw | BRANCHING OUT



CHILDREN'S AREA



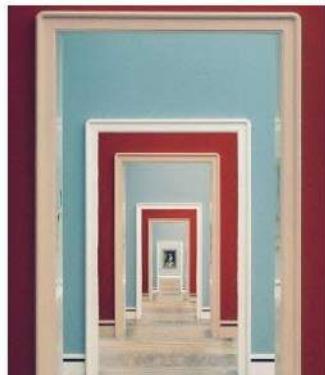
INTERIOR MATERIAL CONCEPT 3

Rhythmic Melody

The scheme draws inspiration from the vibrant Athens, GA music scene, known for its energy and eclectic creativity. Bold, contrasting colors, paired with neutral tones, reflect the dynamic and youthful spirit of the city's musical heritage. The use of varied textures mirrors the layered rhythms and diverse influences of Athens' music culture, creating a lively yet cohesive environment that invites creativity and collaboration.



Energetic Contrasting Bold Rhythmic Youthful



INTERIOR MATERIAL CONCEPT 3

interface | WOVEN GRADIENCE



interface | SIMPLE SASH



INTERIOR MATERIAL CONCEPT 3

interface | ON GRAIN



interface | BRUSHED LINES



CHILDREN'S AREA



SCHEMATIC PLANS

INTERIOR FINISH CONSIDERATIONS

- Mapping out appropriate floor finishes
 - Considering high traffic areas and room use
- Cost implications
 - Where to spend and where to save

FINISH LEGEND

- Sealed concrete floors + painted walls
- Epoxy floors + porcelain tile walls
- Luxury vinyl tile flooring + various feature walls
- Flocked resilient tile flooring + various feature walls
- Mid-grade carpet flooring + painted walls
- Up-grade carpet flooring + various feature walls
- Walk-off carpet flooring + painted walls / featured wall



East Athens Public Library Community Engagement & Online Feedback

SITE PLAN	
School access	5
Pedestrian Access	5
Location Approved	9
Location Change	15
Parking	6
Traffic	6
Trees	3
Approved	7
Site work	1
Outdoor Area – Kids	4
Outdoor Area	9
Voting	1

FLOOR PLAN	
Approved	16
Computers	3
Meeting Room	2
Outdoor Area	3
Outdoor Area – Kids	1
Children's - Interactive Play	1
Children's - Reading	1
Increase Children's	1
Increase Size/Maximize	3
Increase Staff	2
Increase Adult's	2
Increase Group Study	1
Universal Restrooms	3
Seating/Reading	1
Collections	4
Wayfinding	3
Makerspace	1
Family Room	1

GENERAL COMMENTS	
Approve	8
Disapprove	1
Life Skills	1
EV	3
Bikes	5
Solar	5
Outdoor Area	4
Outdoor Area - Kids	1
Computers	2
Aesthetics – Increase Brightness	1
Aesthetics - Disapprove Canopy	5
Aesthetics - Vibrant Interior Colors	1
Aesthetics	6
Trees	2
Sustainability	3
Site - Disapprove Location	5
Interior Lighting	3
Unhoused People Concerns	1
Colletions	1
Public Access	2

EAST ATHENS PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & ONLINE FEEDBACK								
CreationDate	Please share your thoughts on the proposed site plan for the new East Side Public Library	Please share your thoughts on the proposed floorplan for the new East Side Public Library	Which of the three interior color palettes above do you most prefer?	Which canopy color scheme do you most prefer?	If a song were selected to be representational of Athens, or inspirational in nature in terms of expanding horizons, what artist and song would you pick?	Please share any other thoughts you'd care to share about the East Side Public Library concept.	What best describes your relationship to this project?	Other - What best describes your relationship to this project?
11/22/2024 20:12:55.853	I like that it is relatively close to the schools but it would be great to ensure that students have easy access - bus routes, sidewalks with lights, or bike lane.	Looks good - wonder about room reservations and accommodations	Interior Concept 1	Blue	I am light - India Arie	- provide course on life skills (job searching, budgeting, college prep) - tool and supply rental	I live near this site	
11/22/2024 20:24:17.695	Blurry, cant tell which is next street corner, so where it is	Looks great! Space for everything.		Red		Like to see outdoor picnic tables and even areas for outdoor reading with trees and shade canopies	I live near this site	
11/22/2024 20:31:16.196			Interior Concept 3	Yellow	Shiny Happy People - REM	Love it! Can't wait!	Athens-Clarke County resident, but not in the area of the new library	
11/22/2024 20:35:36.463	Love the layout. Will there be any individual study rooms?	Interior Concept 2	Blue	How the West was Won and Where it Got Us, REM	I hope this library has ev charging, bike racks and solar arrays.	I live near this site		
11/22/2024 22:46:42.980	Very congested road to have a library. Concerned about safety issues of children as I have been told Athens busses in Atlanta Homeless people and Publix shopping complex has homeless people following people to their cars. Probably have safety issues with the greenway. Not sure that is the safest place to put the library	Oconee Library really lots its appeal when they moved. It is the technology area and as much money as that county has, some of the computer do not have dividers. Also, there is a security issues when you are typing your passwords into the computer, there is very little walkway between the shelves and the computer station. Before Oconee Library had a very nice open and many computer. Now, there are like 1/3 of the computers. Most people use phones these days, so they need to come to the library if they are submitting a resume online or need a bigger screen. It is becoming more and more technical work, so why did Oconee get less and less computers. Also, having a small cramped space and not the large long tables that the computer was on, is very difficult. Also, many stay at home moms have to have a side job and using the computer is helpful when looking up new ways.	Interior Concept 2	Red	God Bless America by Lee Greenwood.	Need to have an outdoor place, safe no, loitering allowed. Need pond w/ water/waterfalls is calming. Also UGA Botanical Garden help build garden/good walking path of a 1 mile circle would be good. At Oconee it sounds like a wild zoo with kids screaming and yelling. The kids at the Athens library, believe or not, are much more well behaved and they usually have less parents there. People actually read less books today, more books on line. There should be less book space and more computer space. Plus local businesses and the University is pushing their staff to take more and more professional classes on line and using a computer is helpful. Also, need to put out signs for low voices. It is too congested. It is stressful and not relaxing to have people on top of you. I actually would be ok with very low dividers and much wider table. I don't understand how both this library and the other library are not giving more space for computers and more computers.	I live near this site	
11/23/2024 02:38:24.871	Good, thorough connections for bike-ped.	Looks great!	Interior Concept 3	Blue			I live near this site	
11/23/2024 04:26:36.331	I'm nervous that this is nowhere near enough parking	Looks nice and well designed	Interior Concept 2		Lingua Franca — Abolition	I hope there are bike racks!	I live near this site	
11/23/2024 13:56:14.815	Permanent outdoor seating would be nice.	Interior Concept 2	Green				I live near this site	
11/23/2024 14:24:30.198	I think it's a great spot for the new library	Looks lovely- children's department and adults looks a bit cramped and could maybe use more open space? There's also not very many computers.	Interior Concept 3	Blue		The proposed color schemes are very dull. I feel that a library should be fun, colorful, and with how artistic and creative Athens is, I feel that a colorful mural and bright color scheme would better suit the new library	I live near this site	
11/23/2024 14:54:23.630	I think it's a very good spot. Considering the results of the public survey, the former K-Mart site would be more convenient, but this one is a close second considering the Kroger that's been built in its place. Anyway, the site plan seems good overall. I'd be interested to hear more about the three bioretention ponds and sustainable parking lot establishment. The power easement is inconvenient of course; I worry about runoff from construction into the creek.	Surprised it's only one story tall. I don't see any issues with the floorplan.	Interior Concept 2	Green	Moondog - Moondog Monologue "I am never quite educated, Never quite so, But I am ever in the painful process Of becoming so."	I think it would be worthwhile to bring back vinyl records or CDs in the library, perhaps a music section since Athens is a music town. Libraries historically preserved both books and recorded works.	I live near this site	
11/23/2024 15:01:02.930		Looks good overall. I am curious if an outdoor play area/playground is being considered.		Blue		Not a fan of the Canopy. Please see above.	I live near this site	
11/23/2024 15:05:10.823	Will a light be added to Barnett Shoals to handle the library traffic? Will you keep the trees in the area?	I did in a previous post.	Interior Concept 2			I did in a previous post.	I live near this site	
11/23/2024 15:09:09.254	I like it!		Interior Concept 3	Blue	a song by R.E.M. that is about hope and growth		Athens-Clarke County resident, but not in the area of the new library	
11/23/2024 16:57:40.408	The detention ponds should be located behind the building. We should do everything we can to make it easy to walk/bike up to the building. I love the greenway access! I can't tell if there is an outdoor play area, but having some playground equipment would be really lovely! Like the one at Wire Park.	The children's area should have more interactive toys: Lego table, craft table, play kitchen, etc. families depend on the library as a place to gather, especially on hot or rainy days.	Interior Concept 3	Green		The library should be vibrant and interactive. I'd love to see a design that embraces Athens' nature with an outdoor play area like the one at Sandy Creek Park and interactive nature elements. It would also be great to do musical sculptures that are both beautiful and can be played. This should be a space that families can gather and build community.	I live near this site	
11/24/2024 00:31:32.963	Greenway access is awesome. Still so wish it could have been next to grocery shopping to really encourage use of the library by families. This is an awesome plan. I get that it is something we would own. But I still wish the library could be so much more accessible to people doing their weekly errands.	The maker space is really far away from everything. At a minimum the entrance should be closer to the center of things.	Interior Concept 3	Blue	Square Peg - Five Eight		I live near this site	
11/25/2024 13:40:17.339		There is no need for a library on the East Side. One central library is far better for such a small county.			Seriously??	Yet another example of a waste of money.	I live near this site	
11/25/2024 15:03:52.546	Given the location, traffic control will be imperative as it can be unsafe to cross traffic when turning out of these businesses. A traffic light would be ideal. Additionally, widening the sidewalk and the bike lane to provide easy access to walkers and bikers would be nice. Connection to the Greenway seems like it should be prioritized as well.	I like that there is so much meeting and group study space. And I'm very excited for the maker space! This seems like a fantastic use of limited space.	Interior Concept 3	Blue	I don't have a specific recommendation but I would want it to be an Athens musician. Someone from Nuci's Space may have some great recommendations. Or maybe there's a song by the students of Camp Amped at Nuci's Space that could be used.	Very excited for this to get underway!	I live near this site	
11/25/2024 15:08:02.056				Red		I don't like the exterior design. It looks like an airport. A colorful canopy will help.	I live near this site	
11/25/2024 20:25:59.182			Interior Concept 3	Orange			I live near this site, College/University student	
11/25/2024 23:37:31.360			Interior Concept 3			I just wanted to voice my support for this project! Thanks to everyone working to make this happen.	Athens-Clarke County resident, but not in the area of the new library, other	Business owner in ACC & former Regional Library Board member.
11/26/2024 05:49:58.996		While I understand the size limitations for our Eastside Library, I am disappointed that the "adult" section is 2,004 in a 14,000+ facility. Eastside is full of engaged retirees, and this space allocation does not seem to acknowledge that fact. In addition, the roof colors seem to be aimed at preschool children only. The blue, at least, looks like it relates to its setting while the others jump out and I fear would not be as appealing in short order.	Interior Concept 2	Blue	Why not choose an inspiration quote from a writer of words rather than a song?	I am grateful this project is beginning to show progress visible to the community after all the preparation work. At 76 years old, I am hanging on so I can use it!	I live near this site	
11/26/2024 11:19:19.218	Please provide sidewalks and crosswalks from the parking lot to the library so that people do not have to walk with children through the parking lot.						I live near this site	

11/26/2024 11:33:43.534	There needs to be a designated outdoor smoking area that is far away from the main entrance. It should probably have a roof in case of inclement weather. Walking through a cloud of smoke at the main library entrance exacerbates problems with patrons already struggling with respiratory issues. The No Smoking ban at the entrance needs to be strictly enforced.						I live near this site	
11/26/2024 18:10:22.474	Great location and wonderful that it's adjacent to the Greenway!	Looks good	Interior Concept 3		"Stand," by REM	Make it a place that represents Eastside pride.	Athens-Clarke County resident, but not in the area of the new library,other	Library enthusiast.
11/26/2024 22:05:06.520			Interior Concept 3	Green			I live near this site	
11/26/2024 22:05:42.249			Interior Concept 1	Green			I live near this site	
11/26/2024 22:44:05.576	I hope there will be community gardens for the open space where we can support more projects like the seed library at the main library. I'd also like to see a tool library. As trees generally are not healthy when located in parking lots, perhaps we should install tall shade producing sculptures instead.	It appears there are only 2 offices for staff. Is the "work room" an office cubicle situation? There are likely more than two employees needing an office.	Interior Concept 3	Orange		I hope there will be plenty of bicycle parking and charge stations for cars. The print on the lot plan was illegible. A sculpture garden in the surrounding woods might encourage the community to connect with nature. Will there be solar panels/wind turbines?	Athens-Clarke County resident, but not in the area of the new library	
11/27/2024 01:05:31.372	awesome, add solar panels	looks cool				More trees	other	Commissioner
11/27/2024 03:06:20.465	I can't read the words when I zoom in on the site plan, sorry.	Needs unisex/family restroom options. Also needs more seating nooks and crannies for feral introvert nesting space. (Seriously, though...libraries that are very exposed/open on the inside and without sheltered spots to read have always made me anxious.)	Interior Concept 1	Blue	"Never Gonna Give You Up" by Rick Astley ...Sorry, this just seems kinda cringe. I would rather the funding and effort go into other features.	Please landscape with appropriate plants native to the Georgia Piedmont and implement sustainable features wherever possible.	I live near this site	
11/27/2024 03:12:28.736	I am glad the Eastside is finally getting a library branch. I'm not thrilled with the location, both because of the loss of green-space by the Greenway and of the traffic in this area. There really needs to be a traffic light installed at this intersection once the library is completed, otherwise left turns out of the library and left turns into the library will be extremely difficult at peak hours.	I like the inclusion of outdoor programming space. The rest of the layout looks like a library. I'm in no way qualified to design a library floorplan, so I'm assuming qualified people designed it. The only thing I would add is unisex bathroom options so the library can try to escape the bathroom policing madness we will be seeing over the next several years.	Interior Concept 2	Green	This is a cool idea, but probably will be more trouble than it is worth. If you choose one song, people will inevitably kvetch for years about what you did and didn't pick. If you go with song lyrics, maybe pull relevant lyrics from multiple Athens artists so fewer people will complain about their preferred artists being left out and we aren't putting all our eggs in one basket with a single artist/band we maybe can't stand in 20 years.	Add solar panels, EV charging stations, plenty of bike racks (for Greenway users), and a bus stop to provide greater access for more residents and cut down on the added car traffic. Additionally, add more bike lanes in neighboring streets so more people can access the library by bike. The majority of Athens-Clarke commissioners seem to hate bikes and bike lanes (and smart 21st century urban landscape design in general), so I won't hold my breath.	I live near this site	
11/27/2024 15:38:47.910	So thrilled for this location!		Interior Concept 3	Blue			I live near this site	
11/28/2024 01:40:49.145				Blue		Looks cold, unwelcoming. Poor exterior design. And why the "cutesy" colored top? This is a library, not a fish market.	I live near this site	
11/28/2024 21:42:48.141	Glad to have a location on the east side!	Hope there's enough room for a variety of reading materials.	Interior Concept 2	Blue	Something by REM.	Thank you for providing community input.	I live near this site	
11/30/2024 18:04:34.710	Have you indicated areas for book return in the parking lot and into the building? I like your indicator for a new wing when funs become available. Is there parking for staff behind the library?	The path way from entry to help desk is not really clear to see. Is there another way to work that out?	Interior Concept 2	Blue			Athens-Clarke County resident, but not in the area of the new library	
11/30/2024 18:54:48.517	Protecting as much greenspace as possible is wonderful!	Looks good	Interior Concept 3	Green	Willi Carlisle - Your Heart's a Big Tent Snip of the chorus: Ah, the heart's a big tent Gotta let everybody in Doesn't matter who they are If they do right or where they've been Everybody gets in	Very excited to have this amenity on the east side of Athens and looking forward to more money and infrastructure improvements to come this way!	I live near this site	
12/02/2024 20:05:20.902	I like tying into the Greenway Trail and the Outdoor Programming Space. I'd like to see even more green space for events like Family Fun Day.	Can you access the 2nd Meeting Room through the hallway or only through the Program Room? Just wondering in case the first meeting room is booked. The computers seem right in the middle as people walk in; should they be in a quieter/less busy spot?	Interior Concept 3	Green	Widespread Panic - "Ain't Life Grand"		I live near this site	
12/03/2024 01:52:38.136						I personally do not like the exterior of the building. It looks way too futuristic and would not blend into the community.	I live near this site	
12/03/2024 18:56:01.814	Good spot			Blue			Athens-Clarke County resident, but not in the area of the new library	
12/03/2024 19:36:39.194		The children's area seems to be limited on space. Some more study areas would be nice. People ask all the time for study rooms and meeting areas with closed doors.	Interior Concept 3	Orange	Shiny Happy People by R.E.M. or Roam by The B-52's	Some more color in the interior would be nice. Maybe some fun, playful seating	I live near this site,other	I work at the ACC Library
12/03/2024 21:05:32.396					Not sure if the song, BUT DEFINITELY REGINALD WILLIS.		Athens-Clarke County resident, but not in the area of the new library	
12/03/2024 22:24:13.311			Interior Concept 2	Blue			I live near this site	
12/04/2024 00:13:21.681	The site plan and interior design are very good; however, I would like to see Solar Panels on the expansive roof area of this building so that it can have a net zero footprint!	Looks great!	Interior Concept 3	Blue		Solar Panels on the large roof area along with battery storage could provide the facility with a net-zero energy footprint!	I live near this site	
12/04/2024 17:21:04.900			Interior Concept 3	Blue			I live near this site	
12/04/2024 20:33:38.222			Interior Concept 3			I'd like to see a blue exterior. Blue is very inviting to those entering. Concept 3, the rhythmic Melody color scheme, seems cheerful, youthful, fun, & more contemporary than the earthy tones.	Athens-Clarke County resident, but not in the area of the new library	
12/04/2024 22:50:13.157			Interior Concept 3	Green	"Shiny Happy People" by R.E.M.		other	I am an ARLS employee.
12/04/2024 23:01:14.549			Interior Concept 3	Orange	"Sinkhole" by Drive by Truckers as comment on the greed of UGA and the excessive development of Athens that caters to and benefits wealthy, transient students and that contributes to the pricing out of lower SES Athenians.		Athens-Clarke County resident, but not in the area of the new library	
12/05/2024 21:52:09.730	In a climate crisis, mowing down a public park for asphalt and concrete when there are far more empty buildings in this county then we need, is unconscionable and wildly irresponsible. The East side absolutely deserves a library especially one that is further down Barnett shoals road but using a green space for it is not the right move and I strongly discourage the mayor and commission from going down this path	One of the meeting rooms should be chopped for more space for actual books for teens as well as expanding the adult section. The merch room could be completely removed as well.	Interior Concept 2	Orange		Going forward with consideration to the climate crisis, all Clarke County projects should be building green spaces into the design concept of the building itself not just landscaping including rooftop gardens using only native plants, solar panels on all government buildings and green alternatives to concrete	I live near this site	
12/06/2024 15:30:31.552	I wish there was a dedicate play/toy area in the children's section.	Interior Concept 3			Moment of Truth by CYN		Athens-Clarke County resident, but not in the area of the new library	
12/06/2024 16:21:33.795	Please consider including more walking paths and eco friendly improvements (solar over parking for example).	Since this will have to be the library until the building collapses, building it as large as feasible/affordable would be preferable	Interior Concept 1		Wraith Pinned to the Mist and Other Games By Of Montreal	Overall it looks fine; based on the lessons and improvements of the ARL, I am confident it will be well planned. Please do not take any shortcuts- THIS is what I pay my taxes for. This will become also a hub for many types of patrons, and having space for all/more of them may be wise. I hate to say this, but our community struggles with classism/racism, and the library is one of the places where you really see it be challenged. Also, any thoughts on small film theater? It would be really cool to be able to rent a movie and watch it at the library. Just a thought.	other	I live in Winterville

12/06/2024 17:00:51.965	Lousy location - isolated, remote and difficult to access. There are no schools nearby and no places of interest that would draw visitors. Terrible choice to conceal it off Barnett Shoals across from a retirement community. Oconee County opened a new library directly adjacent to Wire Park in Watkinsville - it is a vibrant, active and engaging learning hub for children, families and the community. Why not build this one near the very busy Publix, new Kroger's and THREE surrounding schools? The East Side location is a dead end. You blew it.				Idiot Wind by Bob Dylan			I live near this site	
12/06/2024 17:14:36.168								I live near this site	
12/06/2024 17:19:17.442	Well situated. Nice to see the Greenway connection.	Looks good!	Interior Concept 3	Yellow	REM - Shiny Happy People	So glad this is happening!	Athens-Clarke County resident, but not in the area of the new library		
12/06/2024 18:40:59.142	make the canopy orange please :) interior material concept #3 (rhythmic melody)	where is the gender neutral bathroom?			boulevard of broken dreams-by green day	Please consider our requests to your fullest ability :) thank you.	choice 8		
12/06/2024 19:09:37.918	I appreciate the location and the ample space, particularly its proximity to sidewalks, walking trails, and convenient bus access. However, I have some concerns about the entrance. The lack of a dedicated turn lane for vehicles entering or exiting and the need for drivers to cross multiple lanes when turning left out of the library could increase the risk of accidents. This concern is heightened by the tendency of many drivers to speed along that road. These factors may create a potential safety hazard without a traffic light or turn lane.	The floor plan is well-designed, and I hope the library will incorporate features similar to those in the other library, such as an event/information/brochure wall and vending machines. These additions would significantly enhance the functionality and convenience of the space for adults and children.	Interior Concept 1	Green	Not sure.	Green is an ideal color for the library canopy due to its environmental and community benefits. It blends naturally with surrounding landscapes, creating a visually appealing harmony with the trees and foliage. This neutral color minimizes disturbance to wildlife, which fosters peaceful coexistence with nature. Green also promotes a calming atmosphere, aligning with the library's mission to inspire focus, creativity, and learning. Additionally, it resists showing dirt or wear, maintaining a clean and inviting appearance. Choosing green reflects the library's commitment to sustainability, harmony, and creating a welcoming space. Also, Interior Concept Two's raised alternating brick design, if located on the ground or walkway, may pose a tripping hazard and is not ADA-compliant or accessibility-friendly.	I live near this site		
12/06/2024 21:33:04.320	I like that there is outdoor program space and green space planned; this is lacking at the Baxter St library and it's a shame we can't have outdoor library programs there like there are at other libraries.	How far is the information desk from the front door? It's hard to tell from the floorplan. Will it be immediately obvious where to go to ask questions when you walk in?	Interior Concept 3	Green	Believe in Yourself (Ziggy Marley) (Arthur) (Rebecca Sunshine Band)		I live near this site		
12/06/2024 21:52:58.463		Looks good. It is smaller than I anticipated. There doesn't appear to be an auditorium or theater for films, performances or speakers, which would be preferable.	Interior Concept 2	Blue	None		I live near this site		
12/07/2024 02:07:54.256		Interior Concept 1	Blue						
12/07/2024 18:09:42.473	It is hard to see the details, but it looks like ample parking and a good balance of green space. It would be great to have a small outside play area for young kids. O doo like the proximity to the Greenway and hope there is an access point.		Interior Concept 2	Blue			I live near this site		
12/08/2024 00:49:51.030	Looks like a good site with room for expansion.	Seems good except the adult section needs to be larger.	Interior Concept 1	Blue	Southland in the Springtime by The Indigo Girls	Use colors that are classic that will not look dated quickly.	I live near this site		
12/08/2024 04:16:11.176			Interior Concept 3	Blue	This should be on the box below: Although I prefer the more colorful interior design, the inclusion of Harriet Powers quilt designs somewhere in the building would be interesting. As a long time member of the Athens Art Association and Cotton Patch Quilt guild, some exhibit space for these and the many other artists in the area. The computer area doesn't seem very big. When I am at the main library, the computer space is always well used. Given that the library is near a middle school, is there adequate space for the teens who come in after school (both inside and out). Thank you for all the work on this project. It is exciting to have a library on the east side!		I live near this site		
12/08/2024 22:54:08.335	The location is unnecessary; why does Athens need to fell trees and destroy green spaces for more public utilities? Isn't there anywhere else this could be?				I urge y'all to reconsider the location of this library, and the negative impact destroying this green space will have on Athenians.	College/University student			
12/08/2024 23:36:12.851					Would love to see the new library utilize an already developed area instead of bulldozing a green space.	Athens-Clarke County resident, but not in the area of the new library			
12/09/2024 00:29:36.804	A library is a great idea for a community feature but the choice between that and green space does make me sad. One thing people really love about Athens is it's natural spaces and they've been gradually (now more like rapidly) disappearing for the last few years. Is there a way we can save green spaces AND build libraries? Can we develop and curate outdoor spaces AND libraries instead of cheap "luxury" student housing? Maybe a library instead of a package store, or gas station? I want our local government to find a way to prioritize both, because both are equally important. I know the possibility is out there!					Athens-Clarke County resident, but not in the area of the new library			
12/09/2024 00:52:07.285	Please utilize an already empty building on the east side rather than cut down more green space.			Blue			I live near this site		
12/09/2024 02:44:45.009	Judging from the site plan, it appears that the proposed site would require clearing a significant portion of forest and paving over currently undeveloped land. Has the city fully explored pre-existing brownfield sites/underutilized developed areas for the library? Given the ever-worsening climate crisis and recent degradation of carbon sinks, it seems irresponsible to clear cut a significant portion of wooded area when surely there is a pre-existing location that could be restored and/or repurposed to house the library.	The floor plan is nice pending consideration/resolution of the above.	Interior Concept 2	Green		Please do consider not clear-cutting additional land and take into account any existing ecological impacts developing to proposed site sight but cause.	I live near this site		
12/09/2024 02:58:52.758	Please repurpose an existing building and don't cut down any more green spaces! This is eco racism. Leave the green spaces be.						I live near this site		
12/09/2024 04:24:46.691	There are so many places that aren't outdoor green spaces where this could go. Please do not get rid of one resource for the sake of another.						I live near this site		
12/09/2024 06:57:09.474	There are DOZENS of empty buildings which can be used in a close radius to this site. Please leave the effing greenway alone. It is one of the only pieces of nature we have left after all of the construction of the last few years.						I live near this site		
12/09/2024 06:59:45.583	Please use the empty buildings in town in stead of cutting down more forest. We enjoy the woods and the trails. Please stop.						I live near this site		
12/09/2024 13:24:28.170	Put it somewhere else. We need the space to enjoy nature.	Adequate				I love the idea of an east side library but I believe there are better placement options.	Athens-Clarke County resident, but not in the area of the new library		
12/10/2024 16:36:06.897	I'm concerned that there is too little shelving space.				Give Me Back My Man by the B-52s		Athens-Clarke County resident, but not in the area of the new library		

12/11/2024 12:51:36.725	I think it would be nice to add an outdoor walking loop and literary/musical playground for families.	Will there be a lactation room for mothers? My chief complaint about the new Oconee County library is there is nowhere to feed my baby. I was told their commission struck it out of the proposal for costs, however, this should be an essential element of any public space.	Interior Concept 3	Green	"But as long as a man Has the strength to dream He can redeem his soul and fly" From Elvis Presley's If I Can Dream	I'm so thankful we are getting a library near our neighborhood that my child can grow up going to!	I live near this site	
12/11/2024 18:09:26.979	I'm not sure the point here. You asked for input on location and proceeded to choose one of the least desired locations.	I'm not sure the point here. You asked for input on location and proceeded to choose one of the least desired locations, so.....					I live near this site	
12/12/2024 13:58:39.901				Blue		It should be state of the art eco-friendly with a focus on blending in with the surrounding environment. Please don't make this an eyesore.	I live near this site	
12/12/2024 14:39:47.525	I attended Dec 11 2024 open house. Gorgeous, marvelous designs and planning. My suggestions: request from county traffic or road funds a traffic light (not from library SPLOST funds) to help left turns into library. Ask county to build walking paths to Hilsman/Gaines schools from the start. Establishing walking paths from the get-go will imprint on citizens their access to their new library. Can Leisure Services budget pay for the walking paths? Perhaps some school walking field trips will be possible this way. Thank you for all this work.				R.E.M. Everybody Hurts. This song/music idea on the windows seems like a great idea. Build math/music connection with library users and school population.		I live near this site,other	This will be my local library. I live in University Heights. Am retired children's librarian for Athens Clarke County Library. I see the wise decisions made by the citizen panel and design team. Proud of the use of Harriet Powers quilt in this library. .
12/12/2024 15:53:28.698	The wooded space would be the perfect opportunity for an interpretive trail with signage to educate the public about native plants and pollinators, and the health benefits provided by access to green spaces, etc. I would LOVE to see a small community garden incorporated into the landscape design to help combat food insecurity and to use as an educational space for all ages. The natural beauty of the site should be celebrated as a part of the design. I hope the city is also considering making the library as accessible as possible through alternative transportation means as well as standard vehicular access. The greenway is a great way to connect it to part of East Athens and the campus/downtown, but anyone coming from further south/east currently has treacherous bike ride along barnett shoals, and busses are too infrequent with odd or absent evening/weekend hours.	The childrens area looks amazing! Also very excited about the makerspace and outdoor programming area. I hope there will be ample cozy areas to sit and read both indoors and outdoors (covered and uncovered) at the library.	Interior Concept 3			Have you considered partnering with Sandy Creek Nature Center to bring a bit of nature interpretation and trail signage to the library? It would be a shame to have the library in a site with so much natural beauty and not incorporate it into the library's ecosystem!	I live near this site	
12/12/2024 17:28:33.263	The East Side Library can become a polling place for Athens Clarke County elections in the future. Please contact our Director of Elections, Charlotte Sosebee (Charlotte.Sosebee@accgov.com) to learn of any election building requirements that can be included now, in the design, to allow the county to use this as a polling place. Population density shifts; other polling places not in county-owned facilities can decide NOT to allow elections in their building; all kinds of future unknowns. It may be that only a few adjustments to current library building plans can pay off in the future.						I live near this site	
12/12/2024 17:35:01.742						-solar panels placed on the roof rather than cutting trees down for solar energy -a native plant garden - more bio retention centers -smaller parking lot -solar and green energy sources -increased public transit accessibility	Athens-Clarke County resident, but not in the area of the new library	
12/13/2024 07:15:27.918			Interior Concept 3	Blue	Not sure. Does it have to be an Athens artist? Maybe follow up with the top 3 suggestions and let people pick from those? I don't associate the east side with music as much as downtown.	Is it on bus routes? Accessible for those without cars?	Athens-Clarke County resident, but not in the area of the new library	
12/13/2024 21:07:58.464	It's tough to see the details of the site plan.				Dude - is this a serious question? What data/info/value does this bring	I am not a fan of the location and had so much hopes for this as something to bring a sense of place/community to the eastside. The biggest thing for me is that the library should serve the community as a library and not a social service to the un-housed or for people who want to look up inappropriate things on the internet. The library off Baxter is not a place that I like to take my kids. People are not using the library as it is intended. Unless this new library is well managed and used as it was intended, I will continue to take our kids to Oconee library at Wire Park. It is an environment more suited for children and teens. This location gives me major concern about how much value it will serve the community as a library. It's also between the eastside and east athens. It's not walkable and near any schools.	I live near this site,other	I am an eastsider, local athenian, business owner and parent
12/13/2024 22:10:42.766						Please pay attention to the lighting. In the main library browsing are the lighting had to be added and shines into our eyes as we browse. The plan looks great to me!	I live near this site	
12/13/2024 22:44:18.688	I would love to see this site entirely landscaped with natives! It would provide habitat and be a wonderful part of public education—also no need to mow, fertilize, or spray.		Interior Concept 2	Green		All three color palettes seem darker than I would prefer. I do hope for LOTS of light—the main library is so dark.	I live near this site,other	I love libraries
12/13/2024 23:04:09.511	You've had this since November 12 and you send it out on December 13 with a deadline for comments two days later. And you send something in mice type without context on the site or the design parameters.	See my comments above. You did a great job keeping this a secret.	Interior Concept 1	Blue	R.E.M. is the music that made Athens known. Find some informed musicians from the Hugh Hodgson School to suggest the song. Don't leave it up to the Commissioners and the public.	The color schemes for the interior are so gaudy they are offensive. No one will ever fall asleep in the East Side library. What does the County Leadership have against harmonious design?	I live near this site	
12/13/2024 23:25:08.443			Interior Concept 3			I value a bright open. Feel to the space with some areas for quiet, calm reading and reflection and other areas full of creative intellectual and social interactions.	I live near this site	
12/14/2024 01:32:16.643			Interior Concept 3	Blue			I live near this site	
12/14/2024 04:12:54.562	Thrilled to have a library on the east side!				Automatic for the people (REM)		I live near this site	
12/14/2024 04:14:26.367	Wonderful	Good	Interior Concept 3		Encode symbolically	Be user friendly for patrons to thrive and online activities to become more efficient in subjects to gain personal growth.	I live near this site	

12/14/2024 16:45:28.286		Overall I love it. I do wish there was more stacks. I enjoy browsing for books not just reserving online for pick up.	Interior Concept 2	Blue	Linqua Franqa/Mariah Parker. She is not only a talented artist, but has really contributed to the Athens Community. WesdaRuler/Wes Johnson and Seline Haze/Karica Smith both sing about mental health struggles.	Please have good bicycle parking. It is so close to the Greenway, it should have good access.	I live near this site	
12/14/2024 21:59:19.371					Please do not pick a rap song. Because of rap's connection to crime and gangsta behavior, it should not be given a spot in a public building.		I live near this site	
12/15/2024 00:02:36.737			Interior Concept 3				I live near this site	
12/15/2024 01:19:04.451	A traffic light would be nice since it is a 4 lane road and can be busy.	I love that there is an outdoor programming area and a good size children's area!	Interior Concept 1	Blue		Our favorite part of the main Athens library is the activity areas. The interactive wall is a must along with the blocks and craft tables. Having a play area would be a great addition.	I live near this site,other	We use the public library on a weekly basis
12/15/2024 14:49:34.533	It's sad to me that the local government has abandoned so many homeless people to the care of the public library on Baxter. I'm sure the new library will be overrun with unhoused people as well. They are tired; they sleep in the study rooms, at tables deep in the stacks, on every chair they can find. If I were older or younger, I wouldn't feel comfortable going to the library. These folks need tiny houses where they can rest, relax and recover. No matter where the new library is, homeless people will find it and make it theirs, because they have no other options in the day. Where else can they go without judgment?	I hope there are places for parents to read to their children.	Interior Concept 3	Green	Love Shack	The ACC County Commission needs to work with someone to design and build housing for unhoused people so they don't take over the new library as they have the Baxter Street facility. I don't fault them; they have nowhere to go. I can't send my kids upstairs to use a computer; everyone there is watching pornography. Or they sometimes proposition my children. The staff can't monitor what people do and I think can't control what they watch. It's a national problem, but I think tiny houses would go a long way to solving it.	Athens-Clarke County resident, but not in the area of the new library	
12/15/2024 15:08:57.592	Make sure there will be a traffic light to come in and out of the property.	This is too small to see. Make sure there are small meeting rooms as well as large meeting rooms.					I live near this site	
12/15/2024 19:42:51.318	I wish the site chosen was closer to public schools on the east side. Free is not always the best option. The Athens Police Department should add this new library to its daily patrols (morning, noon, evening). The Police Department has a year to plan prior to the library opening.	The height of the help desk should not block the eyesight of someone in a wheelchair. The person in the wheelchair should be able to speak to the library staff member at eye level and not have to look up and over a barrier.	Interior Concept 3	Yellow	Something by REM or other local musician who has invested in the local community. Maybe a spiritual if gospel song from the Voices of Truth. The group was started in Athens 45 years ago.	Are the public bus stops located so that library patrons will have the shortest walk to the library from these bus stops? If not will the bus stops be relocated?	Athens-Clarke County resident, but not in the area of the new library	
12/15/2024 19:58:58.521	I'm glad it is on a bus route, but there will need to be a good crosswalk for people who will ride to the new library. I'm happy to see there is a connection to the greenway.	This looks like an impressive set up, although I always do favor more books. I hope there will be at least a sizable nonfiction section.	Interior Concept 3	Blue	It's the end of the world as we know it by REM. And I think that this can be representative because the end of something is the start of something new.	I also hope the children's section will be vibrant and engaging.	I live near this site	
12/15/2024 22:28:53.276	seems ok				On the glass?	Hello What happened to "architecture"? Excitement? Balance? Creativity? I find the exterior vision of the new eastside library awkward and lacking architectural character. The canopy idea at best, seems an add on. The all glass building and the odd addition of the canopy are not an alluring invitation into the embracing environs of promise and excitement of a library. The redundant amount of glass will need constant washing and the heat factor will take its toll...no matter the canopy. Another chance to build a great building of architectural distinction lost. Like the "Butler building" interior of the new Oconee library. :-(Athens-Clarke County resident, but not in the area of the new library,other	Architectural Design Professional
12/16/2024 04:44:41.493	I think this is a good location; it is accessible by bus and next to the library. I do wish that once it were open, the 27 route would run twice an hour to make it easier to get to it.	I appreciate the fact that the children's section is at the far back of the library, where it would be possible to try to keep children there without them escaping easily.	Interior Concept 3	Blue		I would really like to see a community garden outside the library. This could help with food insecurity, which is a problem on the east side of Athens. If there was something like a community herb garden, people could pick what they needed to season their next meal while they were at the library. Many herbs are perennial, and resistant to deer and disease. I hope that flowers will be incorporated into the landscape, to feed the pollinators in the area. Perhaps also there could be binoculars available for brief checkout periods for using on walks on the greenway.	I live near this site	
Sticky Notes 12/04/2024 & 12/11/2024	Community group would be interested in maintaining composting, nature education walk and native education and sign making [Community Liaison for above Elle Lewis, annlewis24@gmail.com, 706-308-2577]	Future expansion exterior deck & area outdoors off program room			Sovereign Soil			
Sticky Notes 12/04/2024 & 12/11/2024	Educational walk with labeled tree + plants – instructive nature space	Hearing Loop						
Sticky Notes 12/04/2024 & 12/11/2024	Reduce parking, native plants, no future parking, community pollinator garden	Electric outlets for future board of elections voting precinct. Lisa McClaux 706-400-1350. Charlotte Sosebee (director) 706-613-5152						
Sticky Notes 12/04/2024 & 12/11/2024	Side walks all the way down Barnett	Can a screened (enclosed) area be included for outdoor reading? Like off one of the activity areas.						
Sticky Notes 12/04/2024 & 12/11/2024	Solar on roof	Include Outside tables for eating or resting after biking/walking on greenway						
Sticky Notes 12/04/2024 & 12/11/2024	Increase bus access (more stops longer bus service)	RE: Table seating in adult area. Please do as much as possible to keep this a quiet area.						
Sticky Notes 12/04/2024 & 12/11/2024	Compost access for residents like sunset Blvd – Bishop Park							
Sticky Notes 12/04/2024 & 12/11/2024	Ask county for connecting paths from YWCO and shopping center – Yes!!							
Sticky Notes 12/04/2024 & 12/11/2024	Stoplight needed at Barnett shoals ingress + egress. But this has to be funded outside of library budget for construction and maintenance							
Sticky Notes 12/04/2024 & 12/11/2024	Book drop needs to be strategically placed out of path of pedestrian path OR/AND entry/traffic.							
Sticky Notes 12/04/2024 & 12/11/2024	Middle school students need a walking through the woods path that doesn't have them walking all the way down Gaines & then Barnett shoals!!							
Sticky Notes 12/04/2024 & 12/11/2024	Two entrances off road are necessary							
Sticky Notes 12/04/2024 & 12/11/2024	Drop off needs to be covered							
Sticky Notes 12/04/2024 & 12/11/2024	Rain garden in bioretention areas for stormwater filtration							
Sticky Notes 12/04/2024 & 12/11/2024	Walking path from Gaines Elementary Hilsman middle school, Cedar high school							