



Buffalo & Erie County Public Library

Central Library Space Utilization Study Public Comment Draft

September 2025

1 Lafayette Square
Buffalo, NY 14203

www.BuffaloLib.org

MISSION

Connecting our diverse community with library resources that enrich, enlighten and entertain.

VISION

The Vision of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library is to be deeply rooted in the community: promoting partnerships, fostering the development of a literate and informed citizenry through free and equal access to cultural, intellectual, recreational and informational resources, planning for the future, and making the most effective use of taxpayer funding.

A Vibrant Destination!

The Buffalo & Erie County Public Library is our community's oldest cultural institution, and has been fundamental to Western New York's literary and cultural development throughout our nearly 200-year history.

The Buffalo & Erie County Public Library is proud to be Profoundly Public. Our 37 libraries are welcoming spaces for everyone. We serve as community hubs that provide free access to information and connect people to programs, resources, and services.

Libraries play an integral role in promoting lifelong learning and are at the forefront of innovation and technology. The Buffalo & Erie County Public Library is committed to adapting to meet the current and future needs and interests of the diverse communities served.

The downtown Central Library serves as the cornerstone of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library. In our ongoing commitment to better serve the residents of Erie County, the Library, with enthusiastic support of the Board of Trustees, has engaged the architecture, planning, and design firm of Bostwick Design Partnership to conduct a Space Utilization Study of the Central Library.

This study will include design options and cost estimations for the interior reimagining and reconfiguration of the 400,000 square foot building, in both public and employee spaces, along with proposed layouts for public and rare book collections. The goal is to create flexible spaces conducive to enhancing the Library's commitment to intellectual freedom and free access while realizing our vision to be a vibrant destination.

We appreciate your support of the Library over the years. We are now asking you, as a valued community member, to join us as we embark on this important journey planning the future of the Central Library.

After months of site visits, staff and patron surveys, and community conversations, we are excited to share our consultant's findings and recommendations in this draft Central Library Space Utilization Study. We invite you to review this public draft. Your feedback will be invaluable as we move forward.

The final findings of the study will guide us in making informed decisions about needed improvements and renovations. We will keep you updated on our progress throughout this process.

Thank you for your continued support of and dedication to the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library. Together, we can ensure that the Central Library remains deeply rooted in our community's future.

Carima El-Behairy
Chair of the Board of Trustees

Dorinda Darden
Interim Director





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Background and Goals

CORE VALUES

Core values represent an organization's highest priorities, deeply held beliefs, and fundamental driving forces. Core values define what an organization believes and how it resonates both internally and externally.

Respect

Practice civility and inclusion in our actions and attitudes; value, support and respect all customers and staff

Excellence

Strive for superior performance and to maximize user experience through collaboration, teamwork, training and enthusiasm

Accessibility

Ensure availability and ease of access to library services for all people

Dependability

Provide library services in a consistent, reliable, trustworthy and responsible manner

PURPOSE

The Central Library of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library was constructed in 1964 as a flagship location for the Buffalo Public, Grosvenor, and Erie County Libraries. This facility co-located collections and centralized county-wide services for the three previously independent organizations that were consolidated into one federated system in 1953.

Over the last sixty years, the needs and aspirations of Erie County residents have evolved dramatically, as have the service demands and operational structure of libraries in general, and this System specifically. By necessity over time, the Central Library has undergone small incremental improvements in response to evolving public demands and the dramatic technological changes that have impacted almost every aspect of library service. However, the fundamental layout, the ratio of public to non-public space, and most of the building's infrastructure remain largely as they were constructed in the 1960s.

This Space Utilization Study is designed to determine how best to modify the existing facility to deliver 21st-century library services, tailored to the unique opportunities in Buffalo and Erie County and the existing architecture of the Central Library. The study will prepare a roadmap for comprehensive change to be carried out incrementally, in realistically fundable phases designed to maximize the benefit of existing spaces while minimizing the negative impact on public service and library operations.

PROCESS

The Space Utilization Study has been designed to provide numerous opportunities for community residents and library staff to share their hopes and dreams for a re-imagined Central Library. Working together, library administration and the consultant team are undertaking a strategic process that will:

- Document the Central Library’s quantitative and qualitative strengths and weaknesses
- Engage County elected and appointed officials, library staff, and community stakeholders to envision a future Central Library that is responsive to local needs and interests
- Create a new physical framework for emerging service delivery demands
- Establish a program for transformative service delivery based on targeted dialogue, stakeholder input, and global trends
- Determine how improvements to the Central Library can be accomplished through fundable phases
- Facilitate targeted dialogue with community stakeholders to gain insights and consensus
- Publish and present recommendations in a way that fosters engagement and community support

The work plan was structured in the following three broad categories designed to accomplish these goals:

1. Discovery, Assessment, and Engagement
2. Analysis and Alignment
3. Feasibility Study Documentation and Presentation

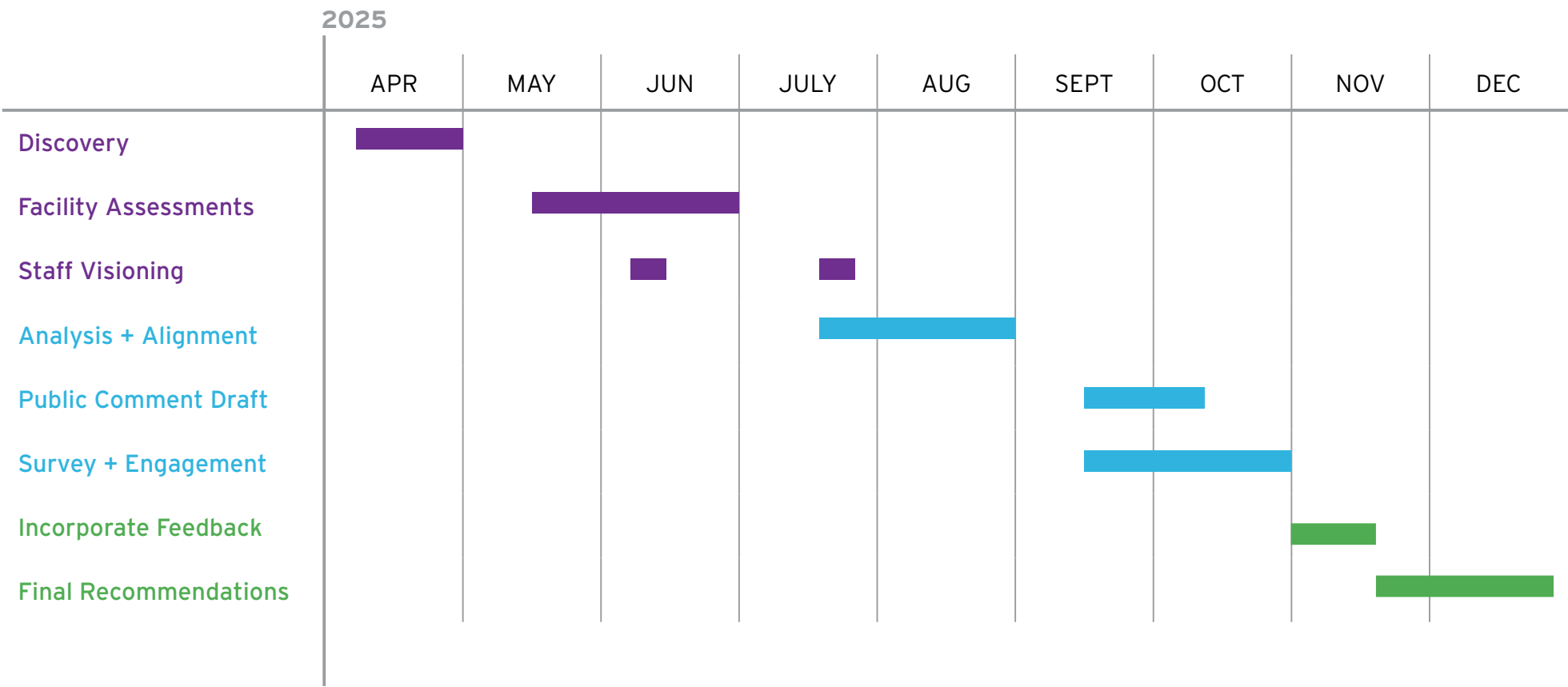
The project has been observing the following timeline:

Discovery, Assessment, and Engagement started in April 2025 with detailed tours over three days, representing in-depth discussions with each public-facing and support area of the Central Library regarding existing conditions.

In June 2025, the consultant team facilitated a comprehensive building-wide planning workshop with departmental leadership, followed by nine department-specific workshops for detailed planning and technology visioning conversations over three days.

In July 2025, the team transitioned into the Analysis and Alignment phase. The planning concepts initiated in the June workshops were advanced in a series of targeted planning sessions over two days. These were designed to review and discuss the initial plan modifications with each affected department, ensuring they aligned with expectations and anticipated needs, and to further refine the recommendations as needed.

At this stage of the planning process, the consultant team and library leadership are publishing this draft summary report to share the results of the planning process to date with the community, and gain feedback that will inform final recommendations to be published in the months ahead.



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Current Layout and
Observations

CURRENT LAYOUT

The Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Central Library is located in the heart of downtown Bufalo, immediately east of Lafayette Square. The library is bordered by Washington Street to the west, Clinton Street to the south, Oak Street to the east, and William Street and Broadway to the north. Ellicott Street bisects the Ground Floor of the library north-south, with three floors of the library spanning over the street below. The following are brief floor by floor summaries.

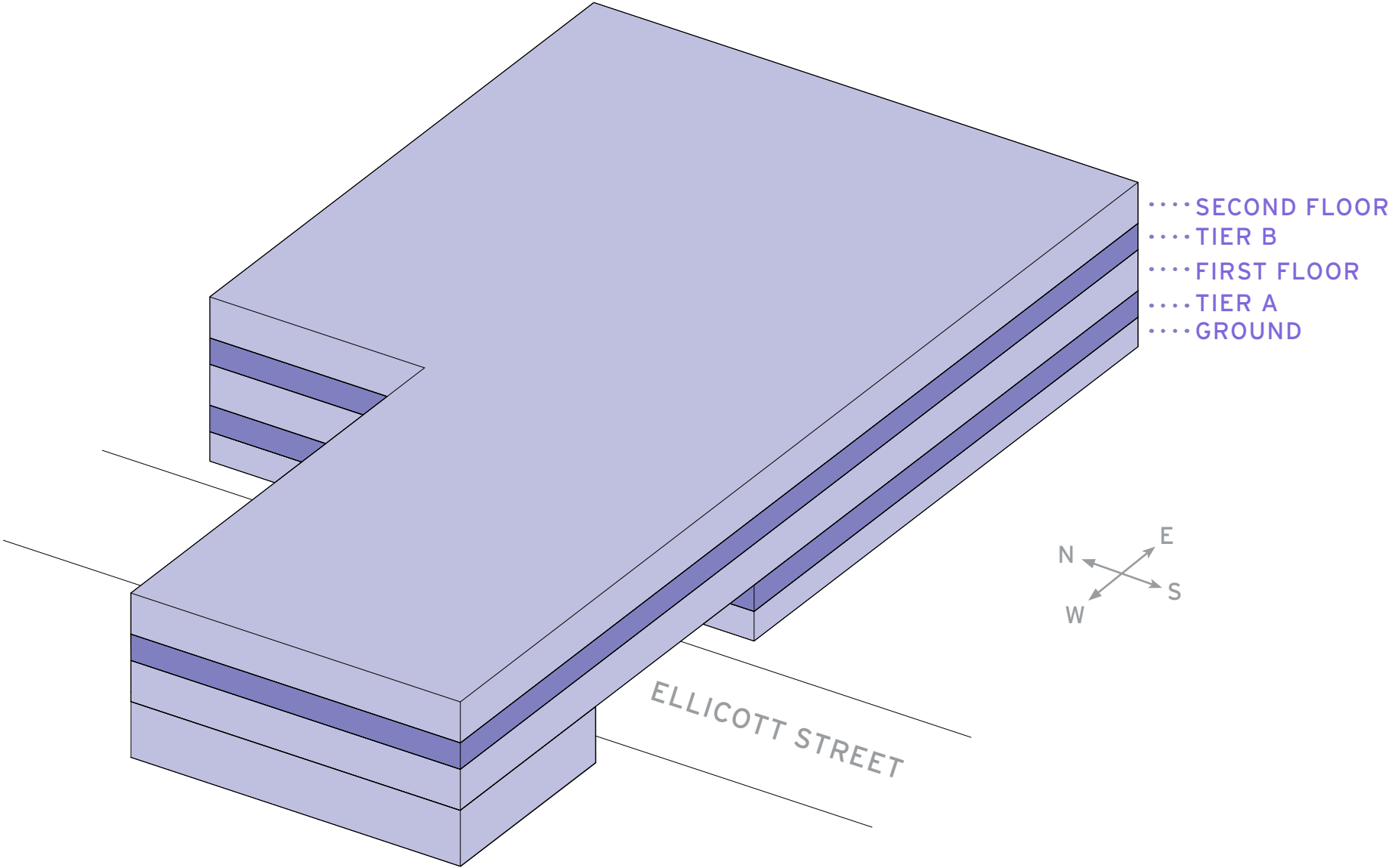
Ground Floor:
East of Ellicott Street is 51,700 square feet (SF) dedicated primarily to non-public support space, storage, and System-wide operational needs. An entrance facing Ellicott is convenient to public transportation and includes access to escalators and an elevator. West of Ellicott Street is the library’s auditorium and supporting spaces, accessed from Clinton Street. Under the sloped plaza at Washington Street is a storage space for county records. Neither of these spaces are being reconsidered as part of this study.

Stack Tier A:
East of Ellicott Street above the Ground floor is 51,700 SF entirely dedicated to collection storage.

First Floor:
The 76,300 SF main floor includes the primary building entrance and the majority of all public service and collections spaces in the library.

Stack Tier B:
Sandwiched between the First and Second Floors is 76,300 SF entirely dedicated to collection storage.

Second Floor:
The 76,300 SF top floor includes meeting rooms, a large gallery, and non-public administrative and operational support spaces. A portion of this floor has been closed to the public due to outdated and insufficient exit pathways.

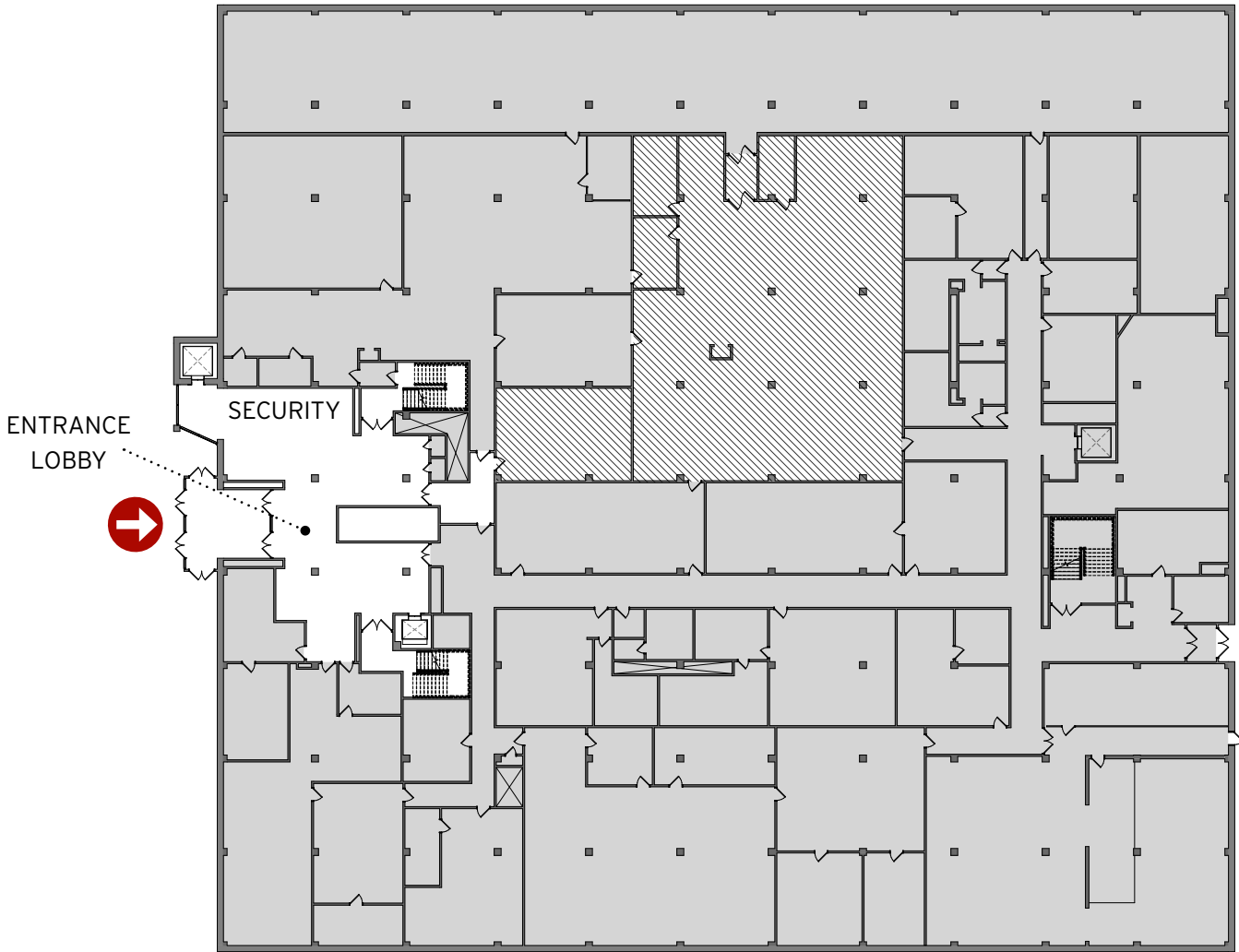


EXISTING FLOOR PLAN | GROUND FLOOR (east of Ellicott Street)

The Ground Floor includes a vestibule and lobby space to welcome visitors from street level. There is access to escalators and the only ADA compliant elevator in the building, which was added to the original 1964 design. The Ellicott entrance is the most convenient for visitors arriving via public transportation, as a number of bus lines stop at this location.

At the time of this study, the entrance experience was compromised by ongoing repairs to the original escalators which are fully enclosed and inaccessible. This reduced the lobby space and created a winding, indirect traffic pattern past a security desk near the ADA elevator.

There are two library partner organization spaces on this level. One is the Homeless Alliance of Western New York, which is publicly accessible from the east side of the lobby, and the other is Project Flight, which includes storage and distribution prep spaces not available to the public. The remaining space and majority of the Ground Floor is inaccessible to the public, providing necessary support space for the Central Library and the Library System.



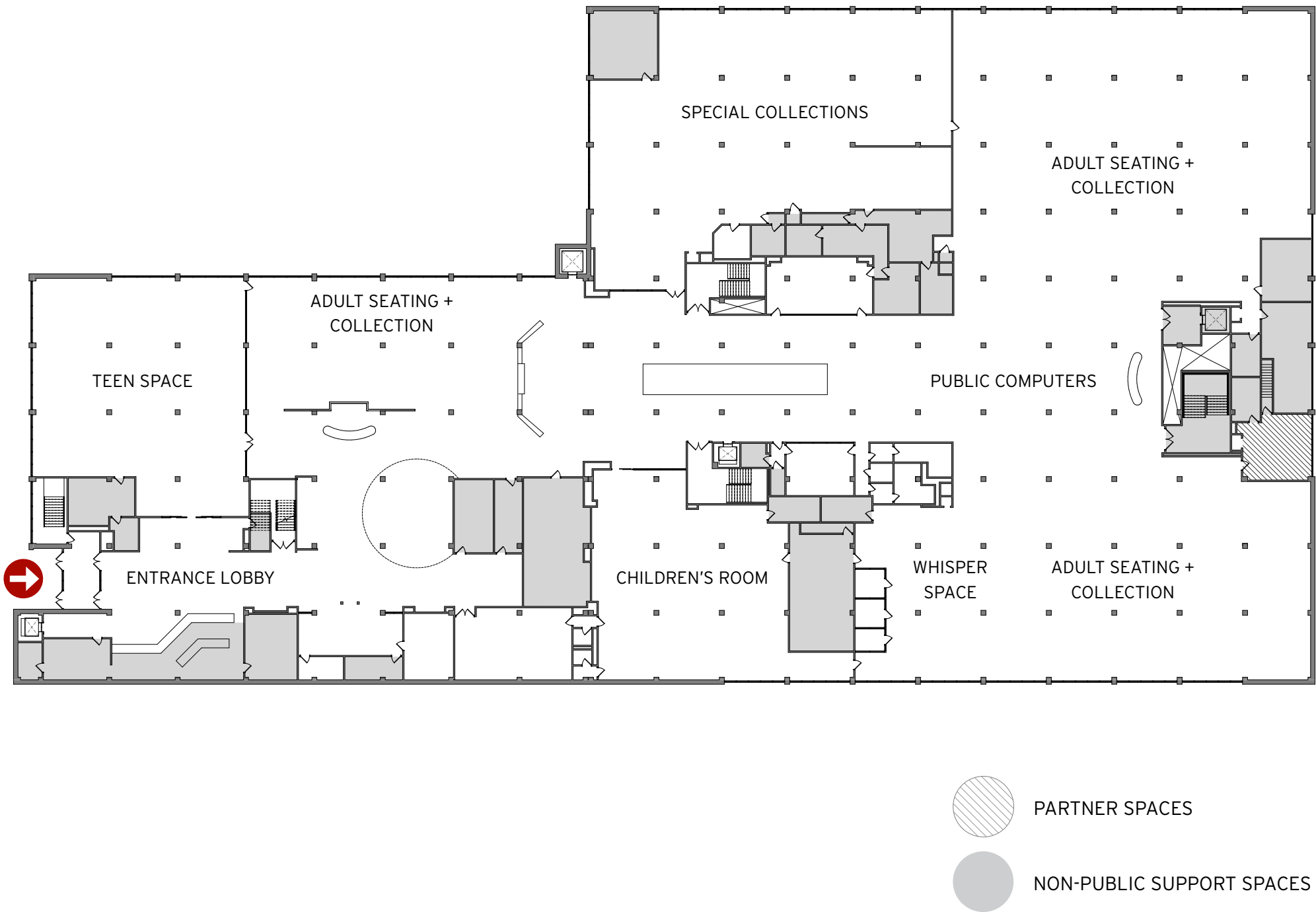
EXISTING FLOOR PLAN | FIRST FLOOR

The First Floor includes the majority of the Central Library’s public services spaces. The primary and most prominent of the library’s public entrances faces west at the top of a long sloping landscaped exterior plaza on Washington Street at Lafayette Square.

Among the space related challenges this study intends to address is the Washington Street entrance experience. The combination of services, signage, amenities, and traffic patterns that evolved over time, each responsive to a specific goal, has resulted in a cluttered group of functions all compressed into a space insufficient to satisfy the needs in an effective or welcoming way.



Washington Street Entrance



EXISTING FLOOR PLAN | FIRST FLOOR

Entering the library through a vestibule, visitors may miss the materials return point immediately to their right as they navigate through recently installed weapons-detection gates flanked by security stations. While a necessary response to a significant rise in incidents over the last few years, the security presence now limits access to the circulation services desk to the south, which is effectively behind visitors once through security when entering, and requires patrons to backtrack when exiting. The circulation workspace has also been reduced to accommodate the required support spaces adjacent to the expanded security presence.

Immediately to the north past the vestibule, opposite circulation and mid-way through the security checkpoint, is a recently created entrance into a dedicated Teen Space. This space was purpose-built and opened in the last two years, representing a successful reconfiguration of space responsive to a demographic previously underserved by both space and resources in the Central Library. The Teen Space is enclosed along its east edge with a partial height wall and not acoustically separated. The ceiling structure above includes asbestos, for which the cost and complications of abatement has negated any new construction that would touch it.

Immediately past security and the circulation services counter, along the south wall is the Launch Pad, the library’s makerspace. Retrofitted into a former periodicals space, the Launch Pad has long since outgrown its original footprint, leaving minimal space for services, equipment, and supplies. The staffed service point and many of its offerings are now outside of the original room, crowding the public corridor. Much of the storage for the Launch Pad occupies space formerly supporting a now closed café.

There is one enclosed public meeting room on the First Floor between the Launch Pad and the Children’s Room. It’s convenient as overflow for kids programming, and popular for its proximity to the Washington entrance, but it lacks the level of finish, acoustical properties, and technology required to make it an effective contemporary meeting space.

To continue into the library, at this point visitors must jog to the left (north) past the former café (now vending area) with seating, towards an oversized but welcoming Adult Services information desk. There is limited visibility beyond the service point, behind which are the multimedia collections and the back wall of the Ring of Knowledge.

Passing the information desk, visitors can continue east toward the Children’s Room, Grosvenor Room, and the balance of Adult Services spaces, or west to the Teen Space, or straight north toward the ADA elevator.

The Ring of Knowledge was added to the original plan as a civic forum providing exhibition space and accommodating presentations and gatherings in the heart of the First Floor. It’s intentionally unenclosed to encourage invited and serendipitous engagement, with flexible seating arrangements open to passersby. While a meaningful contributor to the Central Library’s identity, it is also a visual barrier and acoustically problematic.



The Launch Pad



Adult Services Information Desk



Ring of Knowledge

EXISTING FLOOR PLAN | FIRST FLOOR

Just past the Ring of Knowledge to the south is the Children’s Room, which was recently renovated, creating a light-filled and active space well-suited for kids and families. Like the Teen Space, this is a successful example of space reconfiguration, with a physical - but not acoustical - separation from Adult Services to the east.

Across from the Children’s Room to the north is the Grosvenor Room, home to the library’s Special Collections. The space is a welcoming destination for researchers, history buffs, and genealogists, with limitations mostly due to dated furniture, finishes, and equipment, plus tall collections shelving that limits access to daylight and minimizes space for quiet study or research. Staff spaces are undersized and disparate, with an original layout ill-suited for current demands.

The original escalators are located in the central public walking path just east of the Ring of Knowledge. They are not in use and fully enclosed, limiting visibility and intuitive wayfinding. Unless specifically seeking it out, visitors entering from Washington may never realize there are public spaces on other floors.

Flanking the enclosed escalators to the north and south respectively are the Rare Book Room and Mark Twain Room. Both are enclosed display areas, visible through glass walls and secure but open to the public. These rooms showcase some of the remarkable historical collections that are housed in the Central Library.

Continuing to the east on the First Floor, visitors will find their way to a second Adult Services Information and Help desk located against a wall enclosing an exit stair and service elevator. On the way, the primary path is flanked by more than 80 public access computers, beyond which to the north and south are collections and seating areas.

The First Floor ceilings are high, and the spaces here offer nice views of Buffalo to the north and south through tall windows. Like Special Collections, the quality of space is limited by the age of finishes and furniture, and the height of original shelving creates some corners where staff have no line of sight. Three small study rooms have been added on the south side of Adult Services, none of which extend to the ceiling, so they offer no acoustical privacy.

A small non-public area is located between the stair enclosure and the east wall of the library. There are two library partner organization spaces with informally created work and meeting spaces, along with a few spaces for Adult Service staff. None of these enclosures extend to the ceiling for acoustical privacy.

Restrooms on the First Floor are located on the main pathway just east of the Mark Twain Room. They are non-ADA compliant, with finishes and fixtures long out of date.



Public Access Computers



Grosvenor Room

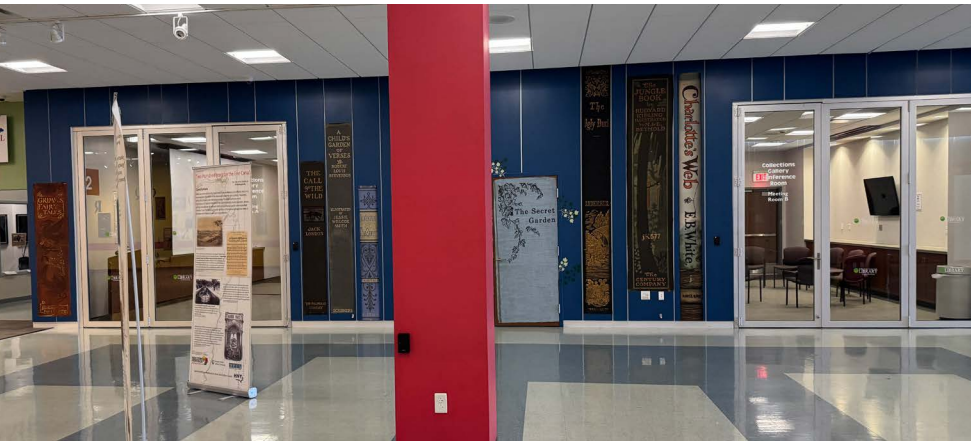


Adult Collection

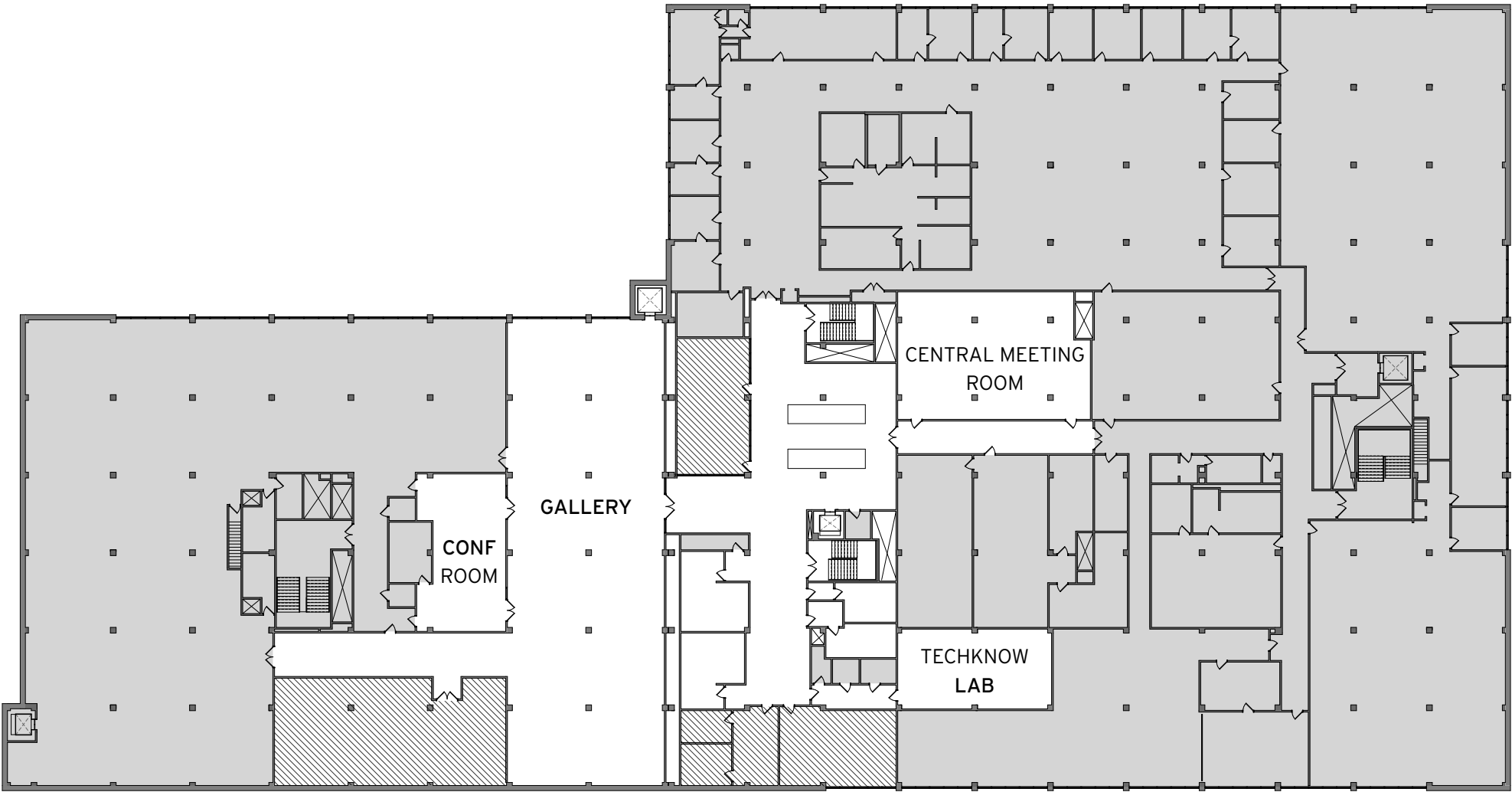
EXISTING FLOOR PLAN | SECOND FLOOR

Visitors arrive on the Second Floor either in a large gallery space in the west part of the building via the ADA elevator, or in an interior lobby in the east part of the building by taking one of the two original stairways or original elevator.

The Gallery space was created and so named as a place to highlight unique collections housed at Central. There have been three major exhibits up for multiple years. The latest was an exhibition on children’s literature, some graphics for which remain visible. As security is minimal and resources increasingly limited, the space is too large and not well-suited for ongoing exhibits. It serves as an occasional space for displays or informal exhibitions, and with a few seating areas it also provides a quiet seating area away from the more active First Floor.



Gallery (top) and Conference Room (bottom)



 PARTNER SPACES

 NON-PUBLIC SUPPORT SPACES

EXISTING FLOOR PLAN | SECOND FLOOR

Adjacent to and accessible from the Gallery is a large, divisible, and well-appointed meeting room. Past the meeting room and along the south wall of the Second Floor is the home of the Buffalo Presidential Center, a non-profit organization that moved to the Central Library in 2021. The display areas are visible through windows, but the Center is only open 10:00-4:00 on Saturdays, and as a result does not draw visitors in any significant quantities.

Other than the meeting room and Presidential Center, all of the Second Floor space west of the gallery is enclosed and inaccessible to the public. The space benefitted from asbestos abatement, but after recent renovations to the building it was determined that the space could not be occupied in a code compliant way, given the original west stair does not exit to the exterior of the building.

The public areas on the east side of the Second Floor include the large Central Meeting Room with a seating capacity of 100, and a computer training lab called the TechKnow Lab with a capacity for 22 attendees. Public restrooms on this floor have been renovated, providing a more attractive, ADA accessible, and accommodating

alternative to those on the First Floor. The Central Meeting Room is popular given its size, but the location offers minimal pre- and post-event space outside of the room, and the finishes, acoustics, and technology are all dated. The TechKnow Lab has historically been well-used, but is inflexible and lacks necessary updates for contemporary training.

The Administration suite on the north side of the floor contains the offices of the library administrative staff. The area also includes the Board Room which is only available to the public episodically for public meetings. However, the original Administration reception desk is currently unstaffed, and any visitors must be vetted for entry after buzzing in on an intercom system.

The balance of the east portion of the Second Floor is not accessible to the public, housing administrative and operational spaces that serve Central and the Library System as a whole. These include HR and Finance, Development & Communications, Information Technology, Technical Services, Mobile Services, and System Youth and Adult Outreach Services, plus storage, staff lounge, and restrooms.



TechKnow Lab



Central Meeting Room



Second Floor Lobby



Unoccupied Space

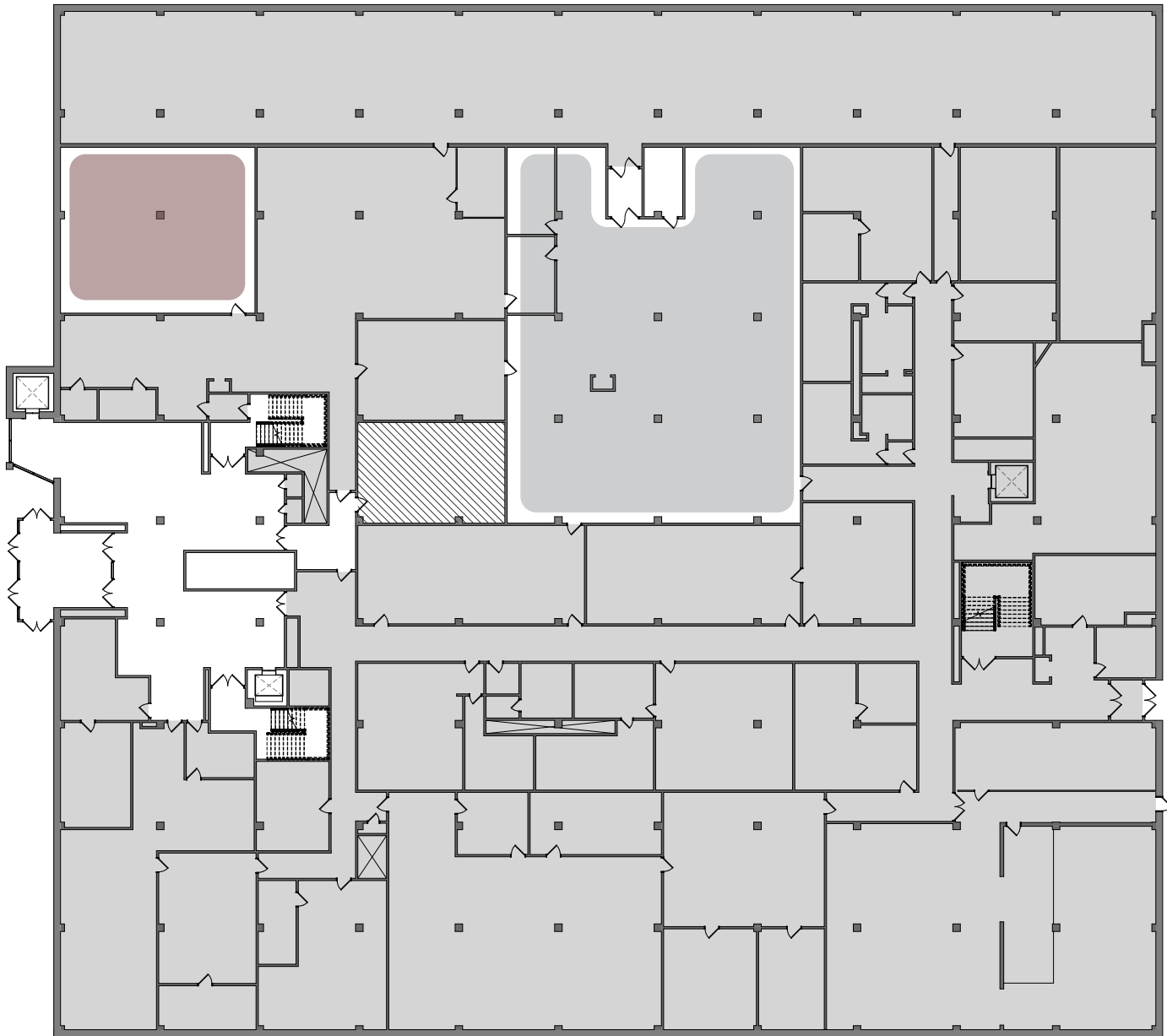


Proposed Central
Library Layouts

PROPOSED FLOOR PLAN | GROUND FLOOR

PROGRAM SPACES

- PARTNER SPACES
- NON-PUBLIC SPACES



The proposed plan will relocate the library partner organization, Project Flight. This shift allows their previous space to be efficiently occupied by necessary non-public support spaces.

* Although incremental improvements are proposed throughout, the plan uses color to highlight areas where a change in function is suggested.

PROPOSED FLOOR PLAN | FIRST FLOOR

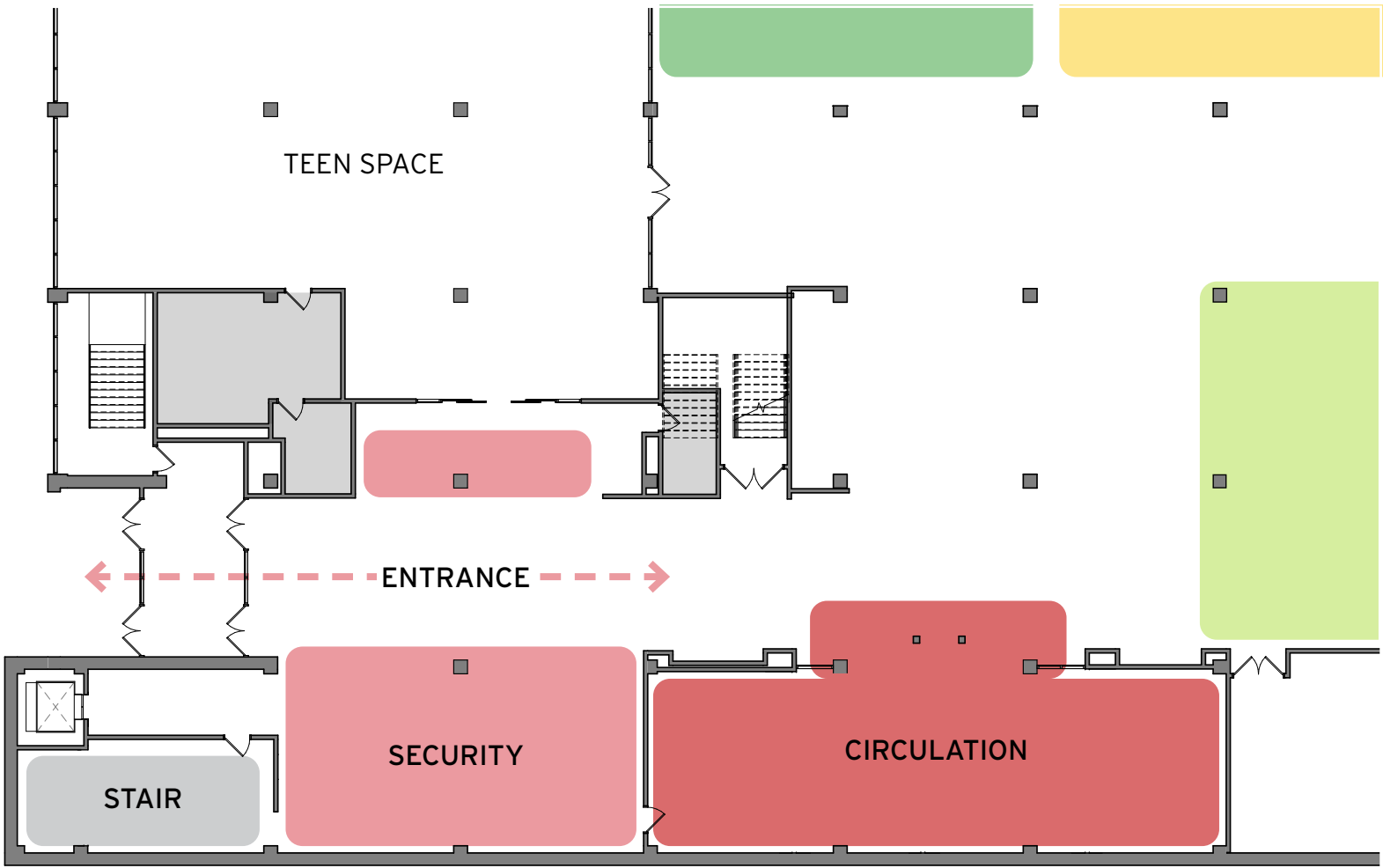
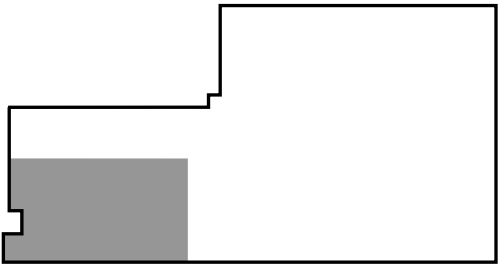


PROGRAM SPACES

- SECURITY
- CIRCULATION
- NEW MATERIAL + GALLERY
- RING OF KNOWLEDGE
- ADULT SERVICES
- SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
- MEETING SPACES
- NON-PUBLIC SPACES

* Although incremental improvements are proposed throughout, the plan uses color to highlight areas where a change in function is suggested.

CIRCULATION + SECURITY



The proposed plan will reconfigure the multiple functions all currently competing for space at the Washington Street Entrance. The modifications shown here are made possible by relocations detailed elsewhere in the document.

The Security presence necessary at the Washington Street entrance will be maintained, with the required support and storage spaces relocating to where Circulation Services is currently located. Circulation Services will shift east into the space currently occupied by the Launch Pad, which will relocate to the Second Floor as outlined separately in the report.

These shifts will allow visitors entering to proceed through security without needing to navigate around visitors who are interacting with Circulation Services staff. This also allows those stopping at Circulation Services to benefit from more space for their transactions. These relocations will allow for improved signage, enhanced accessibility, and will also provide additional staff support space for both departments.

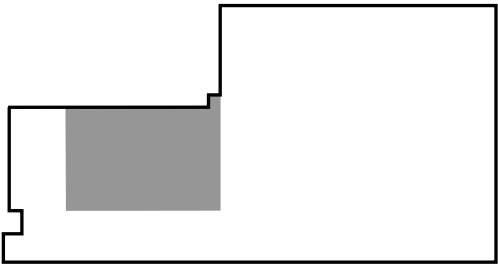
Note that a new stair is proposed to be added at the southwest corner of the plan, between the elevator and the south wall. This is designed to satisfy the code required for exiting from the Second Floor above. The passageway to the elevator will necessarily be maintained, for staff use and for visitors requiring an elevator to access the Auditorium on the ground floor.

CIRCULATION + SECURITY



*The images shown are not of the Central Library, but of other public library spaces intended to serve as inspiration.

NEW MATERIAL + RING OF KNOWLEDGE



The relationship of the Washington Street entrance to the central interior pathway requires all visitors to make several turns, which today are crowded with signage, storage rooms, tall shelves, and displays that don't allow views more than 40 or 50 feet ahead. One of the planning strategies to improve the entrance experience and wayfinding is to minimize physical and visual barriers along this pathway.

With the Launch Pad relocating, its storage demands will relocate as well. The interior storage and vacated café support spaces no longer serve their initial and subsequent purposes and can be reconfigured. This clears a large space near the future Circulation space that accommodates themed and seasonal displays, and/or new materials attractively featured on movable displays.

We also recommend moving the Ring of Knowledge, and removing the partial height walls framing the area. The ring of stones and meeting, programming, and presentation function would relocate west, to occupy a space closer to the Teen Spacevv. A presentation screen can drop only when needed, and displays can be mounted on movable partitions for ease of reconfiguration.

The balance of this space is intended as a landscape of lower, reconfigurable shelving for browsable collections. These may include Large Print, Paperbacks, Magazines and Newspapers, and Graphic Novels.

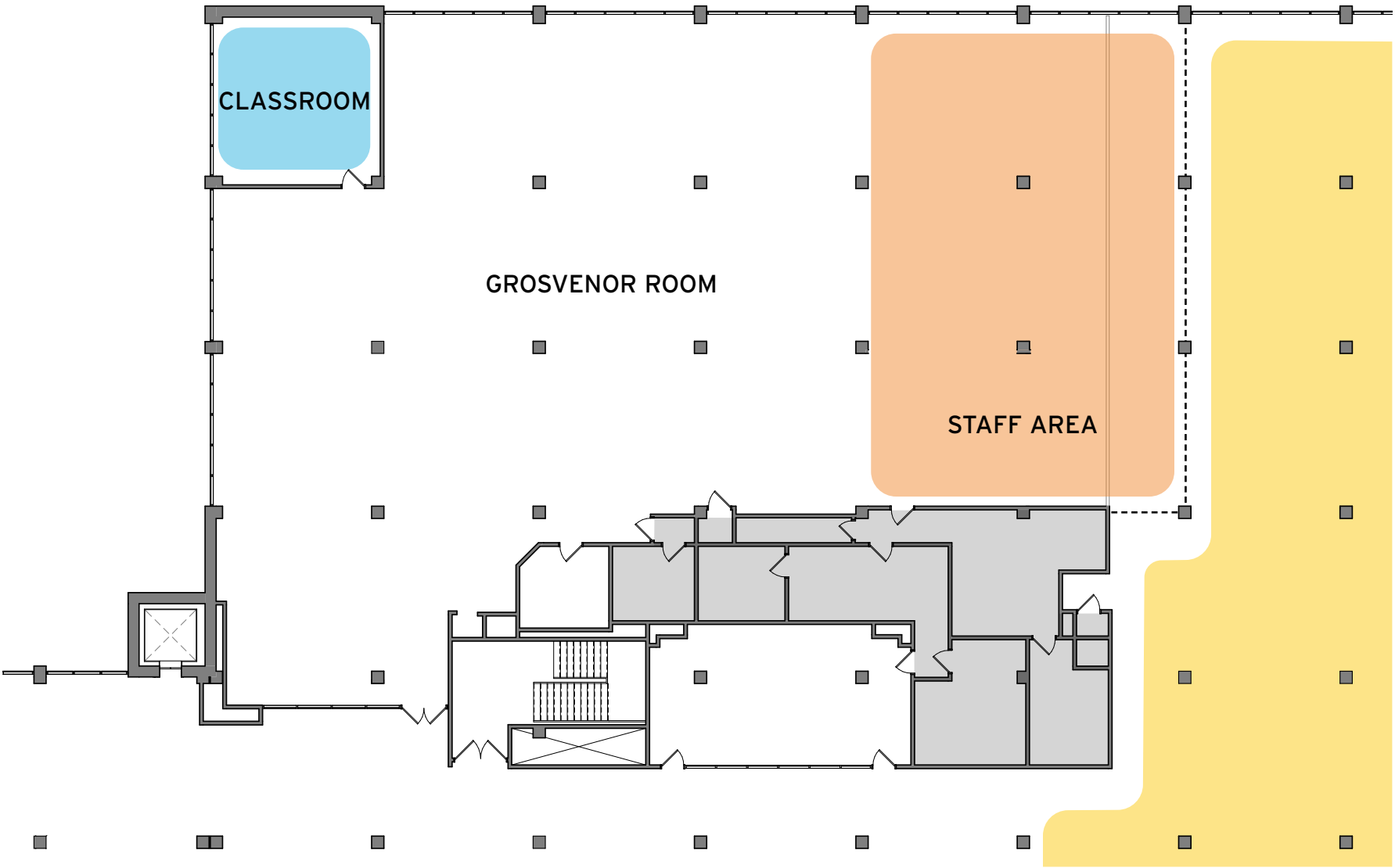
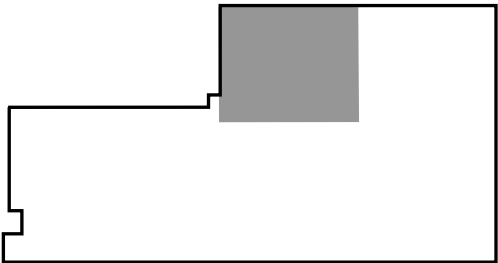
With these reconfigurations, visitors who approach Circulation Services would be draw in by the gallery or new material displays, and will also have a view of the ADA accessible elevator, the escalators (when made available by repairs), and the Grosvenor Room. These changes will enhance ease of navigation, making open and welcoming what today can be cluttered and disorienting.

NEW MATERIAL + RING OF KNOWLEDGE



**The images shown are not of the Central Library, but of other public library spaces intended to serve as inspiration.*

GROSVENOR ROOM - SPECIAL COLLECTIONS



- ADULT SERVICES
- SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
- MEETING SPACES
- NON-PUBLIC SPACES

The Grosvenor Room will remain in its current location and will benefit from improvements proposed as outlined below.

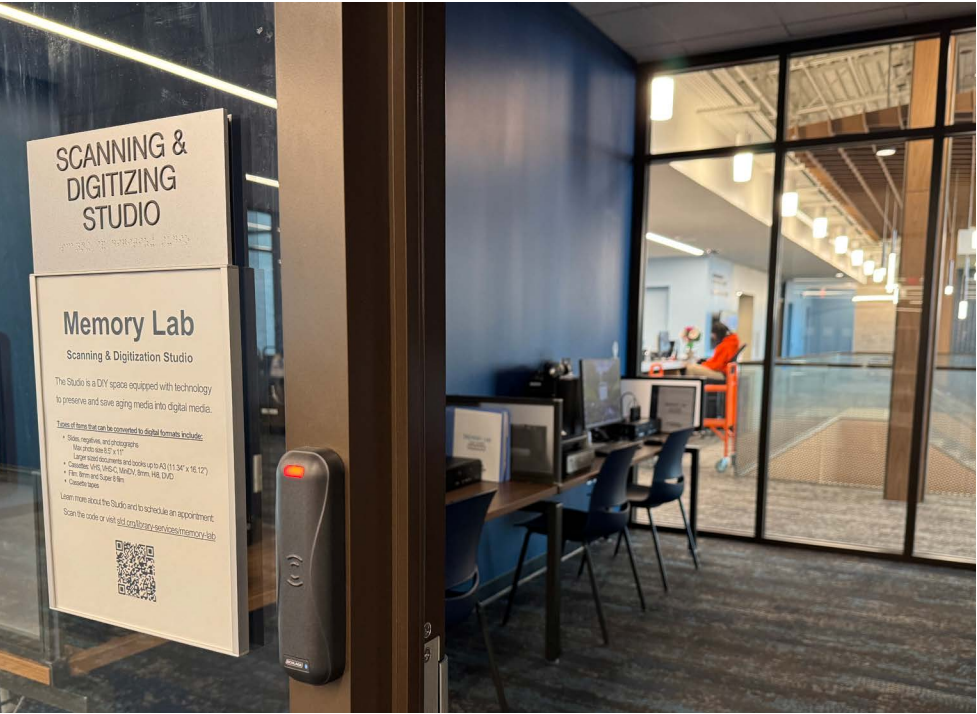
The enclosed staff workspace in the northwest corner is inadequate for staff needs and is distant from other staff areas. This would be repurposed as a meeting room where Special collections staff can host meetings and educational programming for library patrons.

Staff workspaces would relocate to be contiguous with the existing workspaces at the southeast corner of the space. The workspaces would extend to the north as far as required to accommodate Special Collections and Rare Books staffing needs, including an expanded digitization space designed to be available to the public by appointment for staff-assisted use of select equipment.

The east wall of the room would be relocated east to the next nearest column line, with the intent to extend wall this to the ceiling for acoustical separation.

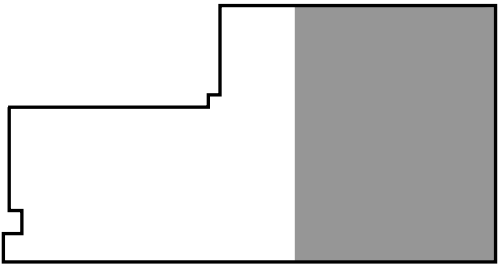
The interior collections, displays, and furniture would see targeted replacements and rearrangements, to improve sightlines, update finishes, and improve furniture solutions for researchers and those using specific pieces of equipment such as microfilm readers.

GROSVENOR ROOM - SPECIAL COLLECTIONS



**The images shown are not of the Central Library, but of other public library spaces intended to serve as inspiration.*

ADULT SERVICES



This is the primary destination for browsing and reference collections at the Central Library. The goal of proposed reconfigurations and renovations is to make the area more welcoming, intuitive, and functional for visitors.

A significant change proposed is to relocate the public access computers from the First Floor to the Second Floor, details for which can be found later in this document. This relocation allows space for collections to be more accessibly shelved, seating areas with more options to choose from, and library staff to better serve patrons and reconfigure spaces as needs evolve over time.

The plan proposes to house collections on shorter, ideally movable shelves, allowing better access to materials and improving visibility throughout the space. This also enhances visitors' access to daylight, taking advantage of the generous ceiling height and tall windows with views of the city. The Media collection will relocate to this area, with additional room available after the relocation of public access computers.

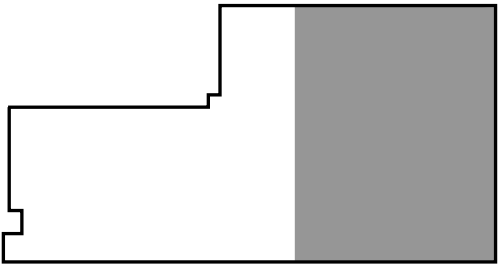
A second goal for this space is to add meeting spaces of various sizes along the east wall of the library. Details for this can be found in the next section of this document.

ADULT SERVICES



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MEETING SPACES

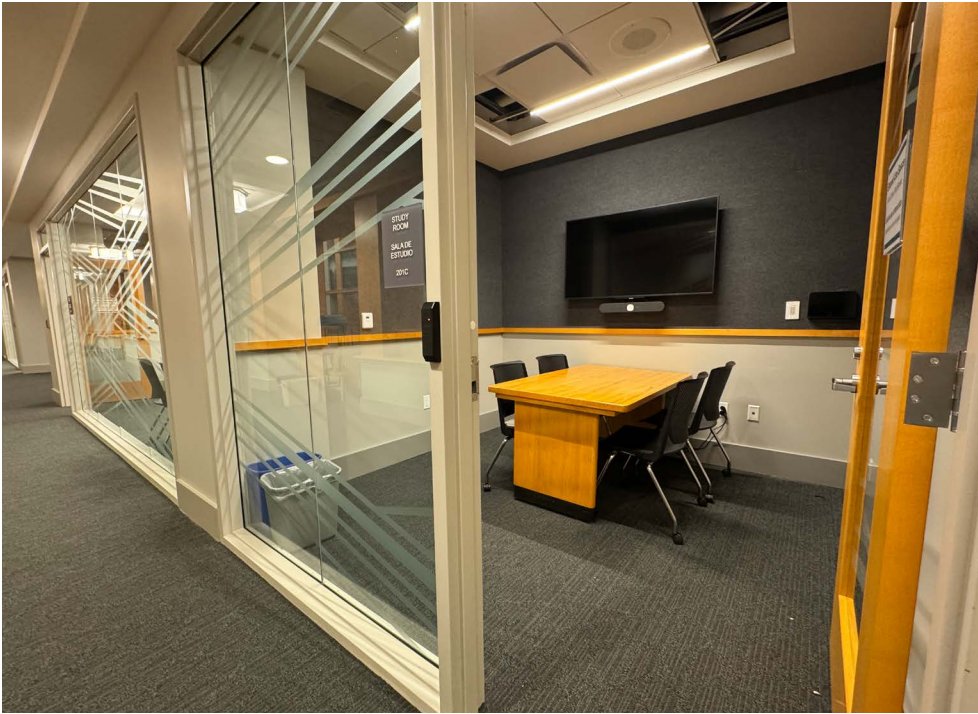


Among the priorities for the Central Library planning process is to improve the quality and add to the quantity of meeting rooms available for public use and library programs. This plan proposes adding new meeting rooms along the east wall of Adult Services.

Meeting rooms are proposed to accommodate various group sizes including small study rooms for a few people, small group meeting rooms for 4-6, conference rooms for 10-12, and a larger meeting room for 25-30. The final combination and arrangement of these rooms will be determined as plans move forward.

Each room will be acoustically isolated, and outfitted with technology and audio-visual setups to accommodate in-room meetings and video conferencing.

MEETING SPACES



**The images shown are not of the Central Library, but of other public library spaces intended to serve as inspiration.*

PROPOSED FLOOR PLAN | SECOND FLOOR

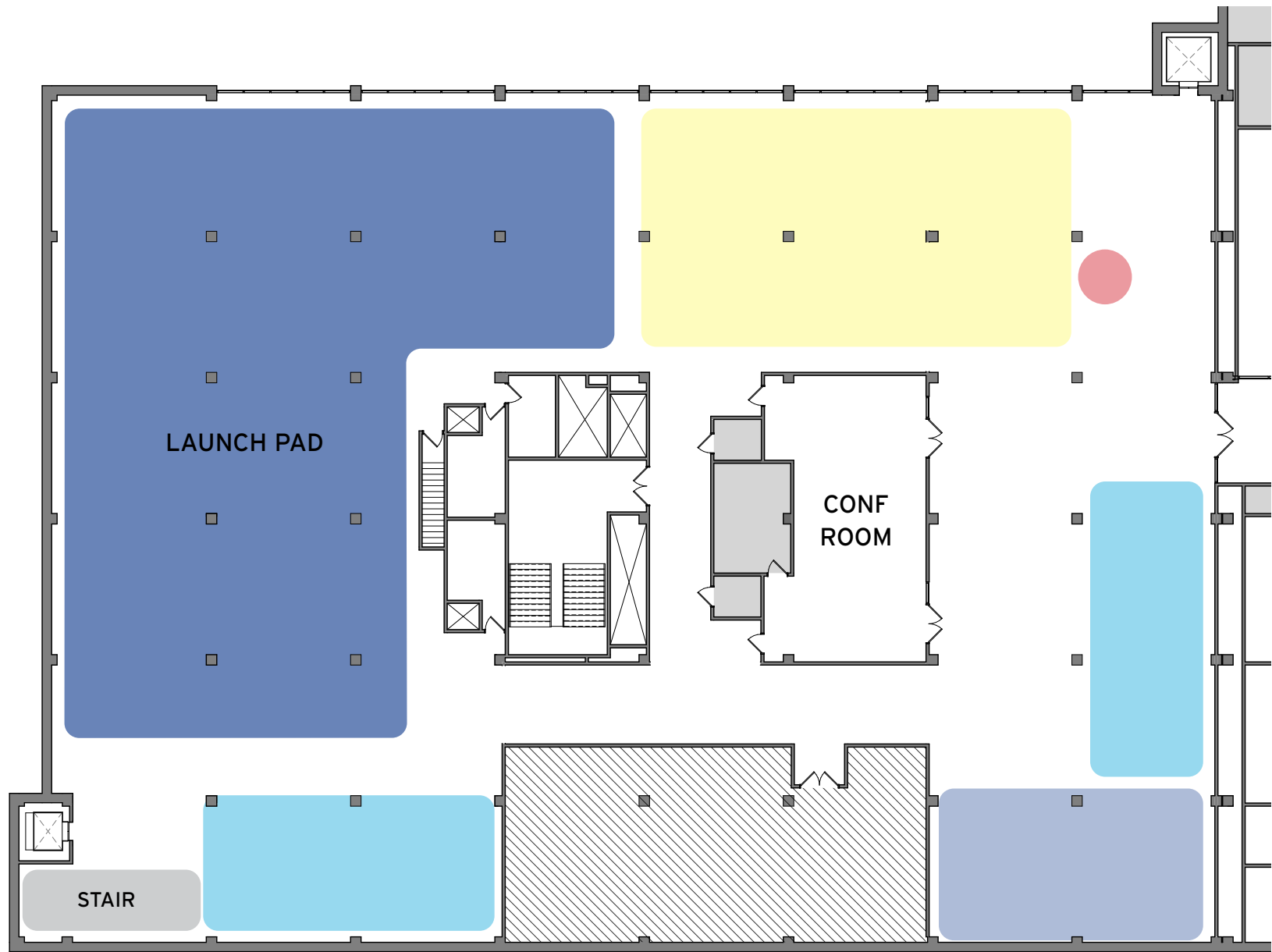
PROGRAM SPACES

- SECURITY
- PUBLIC ACCESS COMPUTERS
- MEETING SPACES
- LAUNCH PAD
- TECHKNOW LAB
- PARTNER SPACES
- NON-PUBLIC SPACES

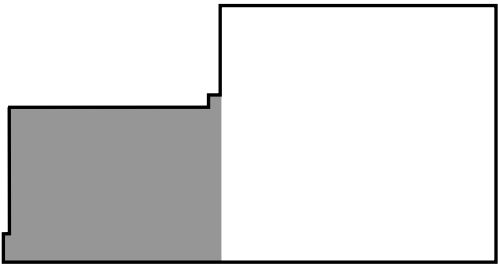


* Although incremental improvements are proposed throughout, the plan uses color to highlight areas where a change in function is suggested.

LAUNCH PAD



- SECURITY
- LAUNCH PAD
- PUBLIC ACCESS COMPUTERS
- MEETING SPACES
- TECHKNOW LAB
- NON-PUBLIC SPACES



Central Library's maker space is a destination with services and equipment demands that have already outgrown the First Floor location. This plan proposes to relocate the Launch Pad to the west side of the Second Floor, making use of the currently vacated space west of the Gallery and Gallery Conference Room.

In order to occupy this space, a new exit stair is proposed, located in the southwest corner of the floor. This stair would extend through the Stack Tier B and First Floor below, continuing to the ground floor to exit the library through an existing door on Clinton Street.

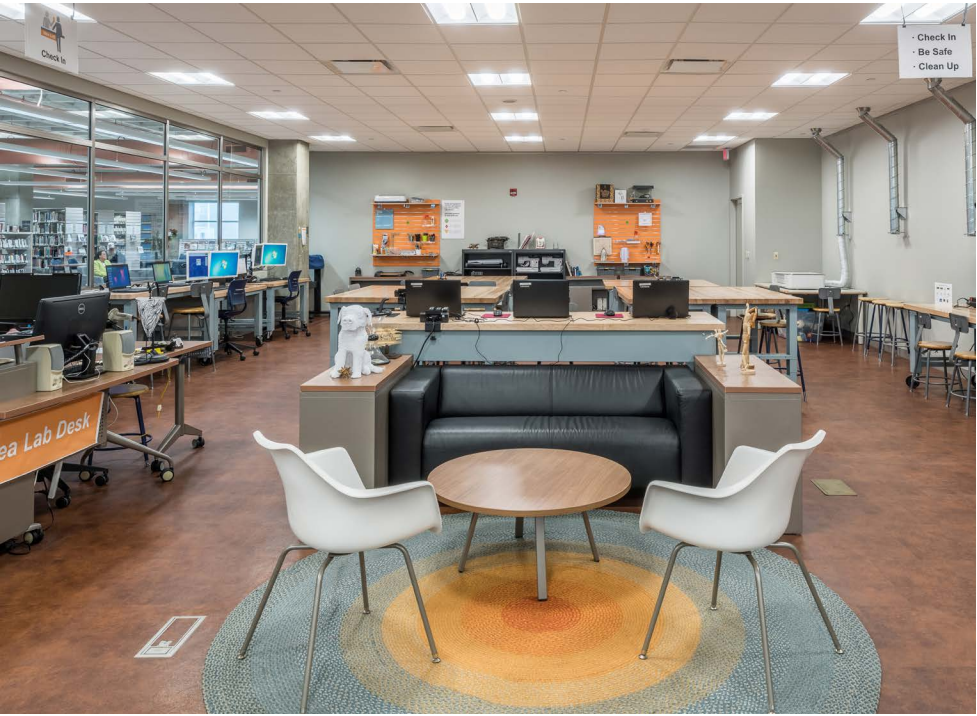
As proposed, the entrance to the Launch Pad would be located just north of the west stair, with a glass partition to identify the space and acoustically separate it from adjacent functions and services. The larger, dedicated space will allow an expansion of service and equipment offerings.

Familiar 'maker' offerings such as art supplies, button making, laser cutting, letter press, and laminating + binding will continue with more workspace and easier access to supplies. Access to instruments and recording studios would remain, with expanded capabilities including separate large video and audio recording studios that can accommodate groups, alongside smaller individual and shared podcast studios. The plan proposes dedicated space for display as well as instruction.

The additional space will allow staff and partner organizations to offer classes or workshops teaching various techniques as well as training on how to use some of the more sophisticated equipment that the expanded Launch Pad will contain.

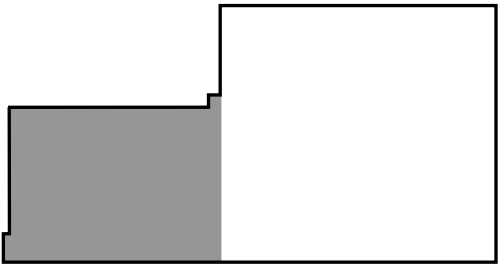
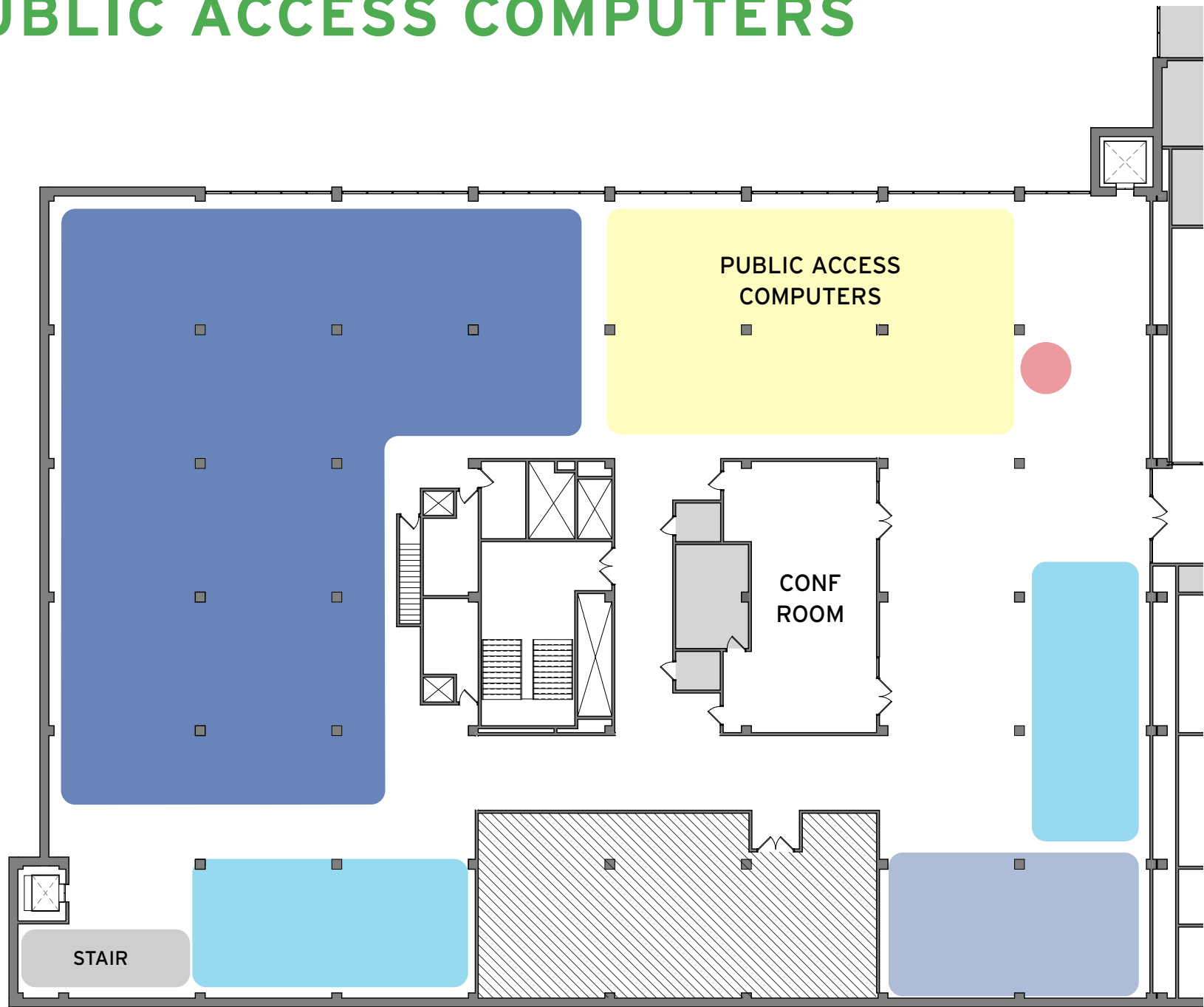
Space will also be created for staff offices as well as storage for supplies and equipment that is not used on a daily basis.

LAUNCH PAD



**The images shown are not of the Central Library, but of other public library spaces intended to serve as inspiration.*

PUBLIC ACCESS COMPUTERS



Relocating the computers to the Second Floor co-locates them with other tech-focused services in Central Library, and will improve departmental zoning and flexibility for Adult Services on the First Floor.

The plan recommends relocating the computers to the north wall of the west portion of the Second Floor, west of the ADA elevator and extending to the proposed entrance partition at the future Launch Pad. A new service point and security station are anticipated, to balance staff support for computer users and necessary oversight.

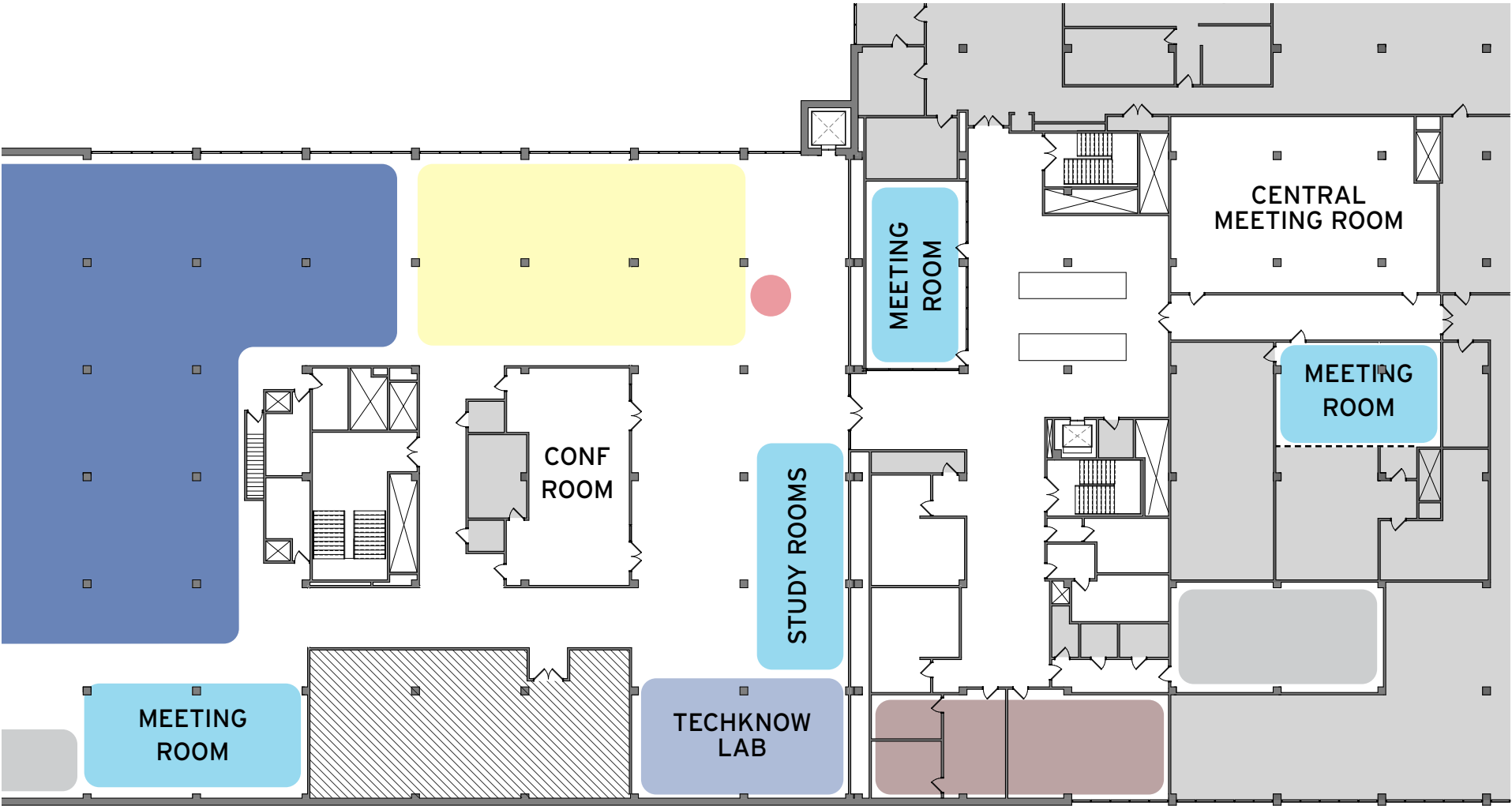
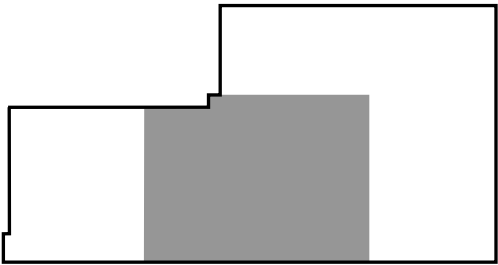
Future computer station furniture and chairs will be selected to find the right mix of size, comfort, and privacy. Computer users often need more space for their belongings and paperwork than is necessary just for a monitor and keyboard. Ergonomics will be a primary consideration, with chair selection balancing comfort with durability and cleanability. While individual privacy is an important factor, the furniture type and arrangement needs to allow for ease of staff oversight and ease of monitoring content and conduct.

PUBLIC ACCESS COMPUTERS



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MEETING SPACES



- SECURITY
- LAUNCH PAD
- PUBLIC ACCESS COMPUTERS
- PARTNER SPACES
- MEETING SPACES
- TECHKNOW LAB
- NON-PUBLIC SPACES

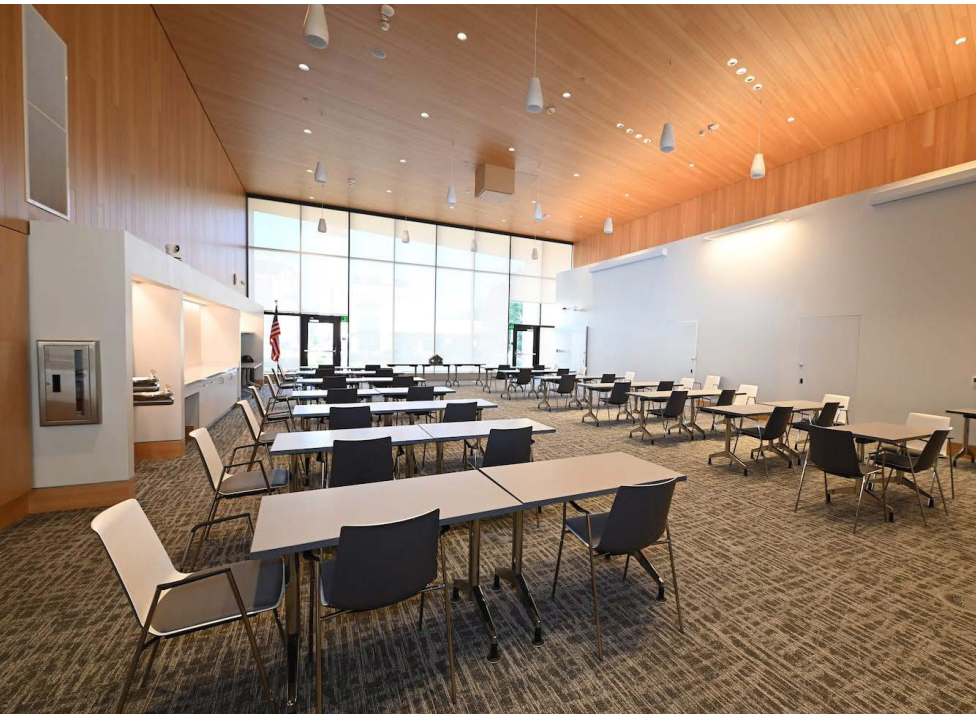
As noted on the First Floor, this planning process prioritizes the addition of meeting and collaboration spaces and rooms. On the Second Floor, improvements to the existing large meeting rooms are proposed, along with the addition and relocation of other meeting and learning spaces.

Proposed reconfiguration of support spaces will allow for a new meeting room just south of the current large Meeting Room. Further planning will also confirm whether an expansion of the Central Meeting Room is possible.

The relocation of library partner organization, Literacy Buffalo Niagara, to the south wall of the floor allows for a new large conference room easily accessible to elevators. In the current large Gallery space, a combination of meeting spaces is proposed, including a relocation of the TechKnow Lab, which in addition to being more visible and accessible can be updated for emerging tech demands. A possible location for another large meeting room is just west of the Buffalo Presidential Center.

Each meeting room will be acoustically isolated, and outfitted with technology and audio-visual setups to accommodate in-room meetings and video conferencing.

MEETING SPACES



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Next Steps

NEXT STEPS

This report is not the end of the conversation. It is, instead, a jumping-off point for a continued dialogue with Buffalo & Erie County Public Library's patrons and the community at-large.

We know that Buffalo and Erie County residents are passionate about their Library System. Please help us write the next chapter in the Library's story. In the months to come, there will be many ways for you to stay informed, engage in conversations, and share your feedback regarding the future of the Central Library.

Visit our website for more information on upcoming opportunities to engage: www.BuffaloLib.org

We look forward to engaging with you in the months to come as we re-imagine the Central Library, enabling us to continue to pursue our mission of "Connecting our diverse community with library resources that enrich, enlighten and entertain."



