REVITALIZING THE HISTORIC RICHMOND MAIN LIBRARY
5/9/2024
• Introductions
• Project Goals & Overview
• Design Concepts
• Review Proposed Art Locations
• Question & Answers
• Next Steps
PROJECT GOALS

• Maintain Historic Character of the Library
• Increase Public Safety
• Celebrate the Community through Public Art and Local History Room
• Provide 21st Century Spaces and Resources
• New Windows
• Seismic Upgrades
• New Fire Alarm and Automatic Sprinklers
• Improved Security System
• Updated Lighting, Power and Mechanical systems
• New Ceiling and Flooring Finishes
• New Restrooms and Elevator
Other Project Funding

- New Fence and Gate at Courtyard
- New Roofing
- New Program Spaces

Other Project Funding – ARPA Funds, Developer Impact Fees, General Capital Fund
Renovation of Historic Richmond Library Schedule

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH & PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

- Visioning/Listening Sessions Community Focus Groups
- Design Presentation & Community Feedback
- Final Design Presentation

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH & PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

- Preliminary Historic Commission
- Design Presentation & Community Feedback
- Final Design Presentation

**PROJECT START**

- ASSESSMENT/ANALYSIS 1-2 months
- CONCEPTUAL DESIGN 3 months
- SCHEMATIC DESIGN 3 months
- DESIGN DEVELOPMENT 4 months
- CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS 3 months
- PERMIT/BIDDING 4 months
- CONSTRUCTION 18 months

**DATA COLLECTION**

- Autumn 2023
- Winter 2023
- Spring 2024
- Fall 2024
- Winter 2024
- Spring 2025
- Spring 2027

**ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN & ENGINEERING**

- Arts and Culture Commission

**GRAND RE-OPENING**

- Autumn 2023
ENGAGING THE RICHMOND COMMUNITY
Community Engagement Outcomes

WHAT WE HEARD - FLOOR PLAN

1. Increase area for children's library while retaining collections
   - Previous staff space becomes dedicated storyline (+1,025 SF)
   - Exterior wall pushed out (+450 SF)

2. Restrooms for All
   - Gender neutral restrooms with wide openings & glass corners for increased visibility
   - Retains family restrooms only accessible from childrens and single occupancy stall in main reading room

3. Provide dedicated space for youth & teens in Richmond

4. Add more variety of meeting space, more accessible Local History/Richmond collection
   - (2) additional multipurpose meeting spaces, one on each level for staff and public use

5. Increase seating and power access while retaining collections

6. Add small, enclosed meeting space
   - Group Study Rooms (+6, all upstairs)

7. Accessible mezzanine
   - Consolidate (3) existing staircases underneath into single stair proud of mezzanine and new elevator
   - Updated railing for increased visibility

8. New entry into children's from main reading room
   - Visibility between desks
   - Increased security from single entry point
WHAT WE HEARD (CONT.)

- Space to eat together
  - Work "cafe" & coffee cart

- Increase usable outdoor areas and access
  - New raised courtyard level and flexible layout conducive to outdoor programs, secured access
  - Sloped walkways at main entry and courtyard replace existing stair

- Relocated after hours exterior book drop
  - New paved walkway from Nevin Ave, includes new lighting

- Accessible staff entrance
  - New stairs and switchback ramp with landing

- Retain existing IT location
The Richmond Public Library’s first major renovation since opening in 1949 melds the mid-century charm of the historic civic building with the vibrant spirit of the city’s storytellers.

At all levels of the engagement process we heard a need to honor the resilience, creativity, and unique contributions of women and BIPOC communities, specifically African Americans, Indigenous, Latinx, and Asian Americans, to Richmond culture.
Inspired by BIPOC cultural connections to the land are inherent or "woven-in" and depicted in quilts, resurgence of urban/community agriculture (Urban Tilth), Japanese flower families.

Grounded and earthy, sophisticated, cozy, woven

Francis Sheppard & Irene Bankhead

Diego Rivera

Urban Tilth
Richmond became a mixing pot after the Great Migration, artists created narrative work with personal significance.

Harmoniously curated, expressive mix of patterns and color.

Emmy Lou Packard

Victor Arnautoff – Richmond Industrial City

Sherry Byrd
**INDUSTRIAL FOUNDATIONS | INSPIRATION**

Innovations in shipbuilding industry (welding, specialized work) and iconography such as Rosie the Riveter and her lesser-known local counterpart, Wendy the Welder brought working women & BIPOC to the forefront of American culture and provided new opportunities.

Reinterpreting classic building materials, structured, workwear.

Rosie Lee Tompkins

Wendy the Welder

Emmy Lou Packard
Inspirational artists include Emmy Lou Packard, Rosie Lee Tompkins, Sherry Byrd (and family), John Wehrle, Victor Arnautoff, Diego Rivera, Faith Ringgold, Jacob Lawrence, Gees Bend Quilts, NIAD (various artists), and Abi Mustapha.
OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC ART
Locations of Artwork

- **Children's Area Frieze or Mural Above Bookshelves**
- **Children's Mural**
- **Non-Integrated Purchased Pieces**
- **Main Reading Room Mural Above Bookshelves**
- **Suspended Art at Central Axis of Double-Height Space**
Locations of Artwork – Main Reading Room Mural
Locations of Artwork – Main Reading Room Suspended Art - Entry
Locations of Artwork – Quiet Reading Room Non-Integrated Pieces
Locations of Artwork – Children’s Room Mural
Locations of Artwork – Children’s Room Suspended Art
Locations of Artwork – Community Room