Complete Overhaul

A Teen Space Renovation

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Lawrence Public Library
Why Renovate?

• 1997 – Teen Zone opened
• 2006 – Library renovation voted down
• 2008 – Board recognizes library still needs updates and prioritizes areas
• Teen Zone ranked #4

- Too small
- Outdated design/colors
- Poor condition
- Acoustic problems
• Development Director approached local foundations

• Received grants
  – Capital Federal
  – Black Hills Energy
  – Gates Foundation

• Bulk of funding came from capital improvement fund (84%)
**Teen Zone Timeline**

**the first year**

### WORK

- **June 09**: Summer Reading Program
- **July 09**: Youth Services Coordinator passes away
- **Aug 09**: Interior Designer creates floorplan
- **Sep 09**: Committee moves in new direction
- **Oct 09**: Teen Librarian leaves
- **Nov 09**: Grants received
- **Dec 09**: Visit PLA for furniture
- **Jan 10**: New Teen Librarian starts
- **Feb 10**: Needs assessment
- **March 10**: Work on big library renovation
- **April 10**: Summer Reading Program
- **May 10**: Work on big library renovation

### DELAYS

- Grants received
- Visit PLA for furniture
Needs Assessment
Staff Input

- Fishbowl/office
- Lower shelving
- Spinner racks
- More lounge seating
- Homework area
- OPAC/2\textsuperscript{nd} staff workstation
- Book displays
Lawrence Public Library Teen Zone Survey

The Lawrence Public Library is renovating and expanding the Teen Zone (it'll be twice the size!). We'd like your input.

4. What would make you want to use the library more? (check all that apply)
   - Cafe/vending machines
   - More interesting programs and events
   - Big-screen TV with video games/movies
   - Comfy lounge area
   - Music listening stations
   - Homework help/tutoring
   - Study room
   - Multimedia workstation with video/audio recording equipment
   - More computers
   - Other

   Other: ____________________________

5. What kinds of furniture, colors & design, and flooring would you like to see in the Teen Zone? (Think about your favorite places to hang out.)

   ____________________________
What would make you want to use the library more?

- Café/vending machines: 60%
- Comfy lounge area: 50%
- Big-screen TV with video games/movies: 40%
- More computers: 30%
- Music listening stations: 20%
- Study room: 10%
- Homework help/tutoring: 7%
- More interesting programs: 5%
- Multimedia work station: 3%

184 teens responded, choosing as many options as they wanted.
How can we make the library a more fun/interesting/lively place?

Summary of 58 free-text responses to this question (out of 96 total surveys)
What kinds of furniture, colors, design, and flooring would you like to see in the Teen Zone?

Summary of 61 free-text responses to this question (out of 96 total surveys)
Focus Group

• Questions
  – Where do you like to hang out (and why)?
  – What do you like/dislike about the Teen Zone?
  – Why do you use the library?
  – What would make you use the library more?
  – What kind of look and feel should the Teen Zone have?

• Rate the Room
Rate the Room

First rate the room overall on how you like it.
1 = (worst) Ugly, I would never want to be in this room.
5 = (best) My dream room, the best I could imagine.

Under comments, list things you like or dislike about the room (color, furniture, layout, atmosphere, etc.). Be specific!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Room Number</th>
<th>Rating (1-5)</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>Overall the room is amazing &amp; clean, but I would like a fireplace in that type of style</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Perfect, but that does need more books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>It seems empty and quiet, where is the noise?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Very luxurious, but not enough space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Looks more like a party house; too weird looking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>Loves the chairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>That seems standard, but you'll need more space to accommodate it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>Groovy!!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Informal Polling

Chair feedback:
- Herman Miller (black) [4 votes]
- Smile (orange) [2 votes]

Note: This is a Petition for Wheels! We need more than 30 to achieve this goal. Look to the Teen Zone to apply.
Needs Assessment

Conclusions

• Defined spaces, open feel
• Lots of comfy seating
• Real service desk
• Good computer areas (group computing)

Can’t accept all suggestions
Complete overhaul of the space = complete overhaul of the collections

- Revised collection development policies
- Weeded heavily
- Restructured some collections
Series

Problems
• Low circs
• Arbitrary placement
• Spinner racks
• Condition

Solution
• Weed heavily
• Interfile with fiction
Non-fiction

• Redefined
  – High-interest, fun
  – Aimed at teens
  – Using childrens/adult
• Reclassifying
  – Dewey or not?
  – Neighborhoods
Fiction

• Extreme weeding (beyond CREW guidelines)
Graphic Novels & CDs

Graphic Novels
• Split the collection into two areas

CDs
• Removed low-interest genres
Evolution of the Design
Teen Zone Timeline
the second year

- **June 10**: Our first draft
- **July 10**: Acoustical study
- **Aug 10**: Quotes from contractors
- **Sep 10**: Design with Demco
- **Oct 10**: Board approves budget
- **Nov 10**: Postponed until after vote
- **Dec 10**: Election
- **Jan 11**: Furniture ordered
1. The funding draft
Our 1\textsuperscript{st} draft
Our 2nd draft
Our final draft
Demco – August

**Collection Totals**

- **Non-Fiction** • 42 Shelves
- **Fiction** • 140 Shelves
- **Audio Books** • 12 Shelves
- **Music CDs/Games** • 15 Shelves
- **New Books and Spanish** • 18 Shelves
- **Graphic Novels** • 40 Shelves

**Diagram Details**

- **72" High Shelving** • 3 Shelves per Side
- **60" High Shelving** • 4 Shelves per Side
- **42" High Shelving** • 3 Shelves per Side

**Floor Plans**

- **East**
- **North**
- **South**
- **West**

**Notations**

- **Wood Paneling to 32" High • Then Glazing Above**

**Legend**

- **Fiction**
- **Magazines**
- **Graphic Novels**
- **Closet**
- **Listening**
- **Stairs**
- **New Books**
- **Audio Books**
- **Music CDs/Games**
Demco 3rd – October
Making It Happen
Implementation Challenges

- Scheduling
- Point person
- Staff turnover (IT)
- Making assumptions
- Book Carts

- Furniture (x3)
- General contractor
- Carpet
- Electric
- Data
- Signage
- Audio/visual
- Acoustics
- Library IT
- Library Maintenance (painting, shelves)
- Other libraries (book carts)
Evolution of the Space
Teen Zone Sign
The Payoff

Space is bigger, open, more inviting

• Staff - patron interaction
  – More reference questions (170% during summer)
  – We are more aware of patrons, and vice-versa

• Increased use of space
  – Holds so many more teens
  – 30% increase in computers, 725+ uses of gaming
  – Catalog station

• Test-area for new ideas
  – Service desk
  – Non-fiction
What we’ve learned...

• Do the acoustical panels work?
• Don’t be afraid of color!
• Expect things to take longer than you think (It’s not always going to go smoothly.)
  – Furniture delivery problems and breakage
• New products can be problematic
  – Don’t be afraid to complain
• Teens are accepting and kind
The End

Questions?