



A: We have seen libraries that have special rooms for graphic novels, visual arts, and performing arts. The intention is for this building to be a library, community center, and cultural center.

Q/COMMENT: with regards to energy use, it looks like you are going to have a flat roof. Are you looking into how to use that space or make it green (the use of solar panels)?

A: At this point, we aren't sure if the roof is going to be flat. It might be a green roof or partially a green roof. We feel there's a great opportunity to get people on the roof as a usable space. At the fifth floor elevation, it could be a great place to view Austin. We think this is a critical point of design.

Q/COMMENT: I am hoping we can have access to the roof, perhaps with glass enclosures for protection from wind, maybe even have niche spaces (quiet/loud).

A: Yes, that is along the lines of what we are thinking for that space.

Q/COMMENT: A great library is the 42nd Street New York City Public Library. They have a grand reading room, which is incredible. Are we going to have a great reading room like that?

A: We will. In New York, they really use that space. We asked people whether they would want that here and the answer was a resounding "yes."

Q/COMMENT: With regards to energy use, when people bring their laptops to the library does that have an effect on energy use levels? Have the libraries had to address that?

A: We haven't heard of any issues with that. We are going to focus on availability. We believe that some point people will be checking out laptops as they do books. We encourage people to use laptops.

Q/COMMENT: At the branch library near my home, children run around and are very noisy; will the new library have designated spaces for that?

A: The new library is 20 times larger than the average branch library. There will be glass enclosures and labeling of spaces. It's important to carve out designated spaces; there will need to be a balance. With larger buildings, you have more space between loud and quiet spaces. The design will be sensitive to sound.

Q/COMMENT: (Question directed to Sinclair Black) – Where do you think the front door should be? On the Hike & Bike trail? On 2nd Street?

A: There should be 4, an entrance at Town Lake, at the Creek, on 2nd Street, and on West Avenue.

Q/COMMENT: I have traveled to many libraries in various countries, and I think it would be good if the library had multi-language signs that can direct people to important areas such as the information desk, restrooms, etc.

Q/COMMENT: The public would like the open nature of the library, perhaps open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. However, what would be the safety repercussions?

A: Some portions of the library may stay open after normal library hours. However, it will depend on the demand for it. Keep in mind that staffing and city budgets determine library hours.

Q/COMMENT: Perhaps there should be separate spaces for different categories of books. For example, a music section, travel section, food section, etc. This concept would also create spaces where people could meet.

A: This concept is definitely something we will consider. Using stacks of books to create rooms or destinations among the stacks.

Q/COMMENT: Late fees should directly to the library and not into a general fund.

Q/COMMENT: I'm excited about the library tying in with nature. Have you thought about a connection with art?

A: Yes. We have begun talking about how we will integrate local artists, musicians and filmmakers.



Austin's New Central Library 11/10/09 Input Meeting
Carver Library 6:00 – 8:30pm

Q&A Session

Q/COMMENT: Parking is very important. The library in Greenwich, CT is a good example. There should be a snack bar, a place to read, parking outside and downstairs covered parking. In terms of looks, City Hall is a great model. It takes advantage of limestone.

Q/COMMENT: Will there be a space for events--local artists, programs, musicians. That kind of program once a month would be very popular. Also, art exhibits of local people.

Q/COMMENT: In California, they have a roof garden. You can show DVD's there (Ex: Wizard of Oz on Halloween). It should have an outside area where kids could go from school & wait for parents. Also, a very quiet area (not even laptops allowed because of typing noise) and a snack bar area.

Q/COMMENT: You could sell gently recycled books in the library.

Q/COMMENT: Use copiers; magazines, most of the other services offered

STAFF Q/COMMENT: How many go to main branch now?
(Several participants raised their hands.)

STAFF Q/COMMENT: For anything in particular?

A: Quiet space; Collections; DVD's; Kids/youth

Q/COMMENT: I go because of the building next door that has exhibition space; Would be great if there was a destination reason to come to library; Something about the state of Texas or about Austin.

Q/COMMENT: Need exhibition space. A gift store would be good because one major thing people forget are their reading glasses. If you want it to be a part of the community, it should not be about staff, but about people living downtown; People would like to volunteer; have a place for volunteers to come, with lockers where they can get information and updates; Would augment the cost on staff.

Q/COMMENT: Ben Ornelas (Library Commission) – Symphony Square is an outdoor theater; It has a connection with the outdoors & Shoal Creek. It would be beautiful to have some place for outdoor presentations; teachers could even hold classes outside; adults use the space for outdoor community meetings;

A: There has been a lot of interest in having an outdoor space. Something consisting of a reading garden (etc.); You wouldn't be able to use this space every month, but people could definitely have access to it when it is nice outside;

Q/COMMENT: I lived in Seattle, WA around time their new central library was being built and

everyone was very proud of it. It had lots of wonderful things. Their concept was strong; they had a stacked program. But there were bottlenecks with the escalator, and circulation was tight. It is in the middle of downtown, so no option for green space. They did a good job with the interior atrium. It has the feeling of the outside being drawn inside. Seems like ours wants to have a civic presence. We should work the landscape into the building. Have green roofs you can access and not just look at. There should be a connection to Shoal Creek and Town Lake and other natural features. Keep it green and keep growing.

A: Our goal is to be the best daylight library in the country. But it's a challenge with our large footprint (square footage of footprint).

A: It is critical to connect to the outdoors. It's important to the culture. The building can serve as armature for hosting events. It is critical to make it feel rooted and that it belongs to Austin.

Q/COMMENT: One unique quality should be that it has lots of work by local artists and artisans. Will there be the possibility to expanding more local craftsmen and artisans into the building? Lake Flato is known for doing just that (Keeping the Texas tradition alive.)

A: We've heard that our buildings do not travel well, which we consider a complement. This is because they seem rooted where they are. Cynthia Jordan, who is also on the committee for the Decommissioning of the Green Water Treatment Plant, has been able to secure some treatment plant artifacts, that we are going to try and integrate into the design of the library.

Q/COMMENT: Items feel like they belong to building, and the building belongs to city.

Q/COMMENT: You could integrate elements into the fabric of the building--modest elements, but handcrafted by local artisans. This gets people excited.

A: We like to tell a story; we like to do it with architecture; large buildings get expensive; however we will try to incorporate these elements in very important parts of building--not everywhere because of budget constraints. We understand the importance of showcasing the work of local artist and artisans in some portion of the design.

Q: You mentioned you already had a sustainability meeting. Do you have goals or targets set for LEED standards?

A: No, we haven't yet because we are still working on defining it. One of the things we were discussing is having a green roof versus a PV roof. We do know that 13% of the energy coming from building will be LEED silver. We will evolve based on cost & water code issues. Some concepts are more aggressive than we can achieve; some concepts and systems are definite. LEED Silver is a minimum goal; we anticipate some LEED Platinum rating however we don't want to spend money on just a target number.

Q/COMMENT: The reason I ask is because the photos you showed make me believe there's going to be a lot of glazing. Which is very expensive. There are alternatives which are cheaper.

A: It comes down to how you use light, and not how big the windows are. The Kimbell is a perfect example. We also need to consider how to control heat too.



Q/COMMENT: When we think of accessibility we think of wheel chair access, but we also need to consider visual impairments as well as other mobility impairments; need to provide solutions through technology (might not be architects realm). When discussing accessibility for those with visual impairments the Carver branch is a good example because it uses a lot of different colors & materials. Other suggestions are to use a pattern in floor; bright wall colors & different materials. This could also assist those that are colorblind by helping them move through different spaces. The use of color is very important. The San Antonio library is another good example in that they have a good use of color. It's an experience to walk into their library. They use bright, contrasting colors and light. In order to make the new library accessible to those with hearing impairments, the use of materials comes into play. The materials used need to have the ability to absorb sound rather than reflect sound. Glazing reflects rather than absorbs. Also consider the use of skylights, not just windows to manipulate light.

Light can help the visually impaired. Materials used for the exterior of the building can affect the hearing impaired. I know a lot is technology related but maybe you should think about these challenges upfront. With all the technology that is currently available (computers, etc.), you should be thinking about how to incorporate these concepts now rather than it being an afterthought down the line.

Q/COMMENT: Austin can get loud (especially at Symphony Shores and Auditorium Shores); Need to have good sound proofing in the library; Addressing available day light – the current library has problems in afternoon, the sun is blinding on the southwest side of the library; the windows need awnings. Whole floors could be designated as group floors (like in the North Carolina library) and you could tie that in with a snack area.

Q/COMMENT: Regarding lighting, my pet peeve is that the library lighting over all is nice & you can see throughout the building but at the bookshelves where the books have plastic coverings, the glare makes it so you can't read or see the titles on the books. Also consider the low (bottom) shelves where there is a considerable amount of shading which makes it difficult to scan the shelves and easily see books and their titles, which is critical.

Q/COMMENT: There should be group space where you can hold writers classes and writing groups can meet regularly. A space where people can come to hear authors speak (which might be in a larger space/venue). Would like to see spaces for book discussions and for book clubs to meet.

Q/COMMENT: The concept of an "oasis" has been mentioned; the idea to have a central courtyard or centrally located enclosed space where you can go and read; with comfortable seating, water trickling, plants, etc. Food should be close to this space. This might be great opportunity to have higher end food options such as an artisan bakery (offering pastries, gourmet teas/coffees and local foods), instead of something fast & cheap. People would want to come to the library to gather and eat (creating an experience).

Throughout there needs to be comfortable places to sit & read, with comfortable arm chairs because often time chairs are bought because they look good and are not comfortable for sitting for long periods of time while you read.

A: We have been doing demos on materials (like chairs) to see what is comfortable and we get

useful feedback.

STAFF Q/COMMENT: We've been hearing that you want spaces for group, help us get an idea of the size of groups that would use these spaces. How many people?

A: For writers groups somewhere around 6-10 people on ongoing basis. Which is an entirely different process than coming to hear a speaker.

A: Looking for a comfortable "living room" type feeling rather than high end commercial space; Want the space to be more relaxed.

Q/COMMENT: In the courtyard and at the entrances there should be touchable art or sculptures that you can touch. This also creates a space outside, where families can meet and children can talk, pat the lion or rub piggy. Children want to touch, so put something specific that they can touch, something they can sit on. For example a rhino that children can sit on. This gives them a reason to want to come to the library while they are young and will continue to come on their own as they get older.

Q/COMMENT: I homeschool my children and the library is an integral part of that. At our library, the "how-to", informational and sciences videos were extremely important. In addition, the person that oversaw that department was very passionate and knowledgeable. You need to have materials suitable for homeschoolers and maybe have meetings rooms where other homeschooled families can get together to do science projects or lessons.

STAFF Q/COMMENT: How many of you would use a meeting space if you could reserve it?

A: almost majority said yes

Q/COMMENT: There are a lot of ideas and the budget is tight, how does this compare to other projects you worked on?

A: The big questions is what do you cut out now to incorporate later when you have ideas that you couldn't afford up front and bring in quickly after the building has been completed. We do not want to do things cheaply. Some ideas will have to be lost because others will need to be incorporated. We need to challenge all assumptions to make sure we are adding what needs to be added while making the building flexibility enough to adapt & change in the future.

We have \$235 per square foot to spend. Parking is an issue but there is money for it. The LEED point system for 2009 will not be the same as the point system in 2014. This is a key challenge. We've talked about using a system of displacement air, however some people don't like this concept. The challenge is to find ways that promote flexibility & change over time since not all ideas/concepts can be incorporated due to the fact that they cost too much. However, you need a balance in order to get those items that MUST be included, incorporated.

STAFF Q/COMMENT: (Mr. Tim Steely spoke about fundraising efforts.)

They will be deeply involved; partnerships with the city & staff; to raise money so we can accommodate things we learned that Austinites really want & couldn't afford with the current budget; we are very early on in the process of identifying what those needs are and how much it's going to cost.

We are working on campaign of several million dollars to help with this effort.



Q/COMMENT: What about signage? This is probably a minor issue from overall budget standpoint but major in functionality. How are you addressing way-finding? What is your approach?

A: We understand flow and intuitive mapping of the building. We question, "How does the building signal you?" We are looking into integrating signage into the architecture because it's hard to work with a sign company after the walls are already up. We will be trying to anticipate flow between functions. When spaces or functions are repeated floor to floor (having similar spaces on each floor), the more you use those areas the more familiar it becomes and you are able to orient yourself. Will try to integrate every surface to make sure this building is easily understood. We'll be looking to have easily seen changes in surfaces, respective colors and materials to help you find your way around the spaces.

Q/COMMENT: I've seen that signage winds up being an afterthought and therefore doesn't look like it is part of the building.

A: We have a signage consultant that's already on the team so it won't be an afterthought. Also we'll be building the on success of existing branches and looking at what works now.

Q/COMMENT: The Faulk central library has a nice music collection (records, CD's, etc.). Austin is known for live music and I would like to see musical elements incorporated into the design. Perhaps focusing on the history of music in Austin and having a large collection focused on local music. There should also be a space for music, perhaps like City Hall, how they have an outdoor theater space in the front for music in the plaza.

Have music for young kids. Rolling Stones did a "best 500 musical artist" issue maybe elaborating on that concept and incorporating Austin music history.

A: (Brenda) We're planning a 350-seat auditorium to support music, film, puppet shows, performances, etc. It will give us room to showcase this and help us understand the richness of what's inside the library.

Q/COMMENT: I work downtown, in terms of parking are you thinking of a separate parking structure or integrating it into the building design?

A: Integrating

Q/COMMENT: Have you brought Cap Metro into this, so people could access the library, other than by driving?

A: Cap Metro has contacted John Gillum & the Seaholm development will be brought in.

Q/COMMENT: Cap Metro had planned to bring rail to Seaholm. Is this still the long-term goal? It will be interesting to see how the trail will work with the entire development.

A: We have and will continue to reinforce the fact that we want rail to come all the way to the library. There will be meetings up to talk about that. But know we are pushing to have rail come all the way through.

Q/COMMENT: As a tax payer, I am thinking of ways public entities can share this space with private groups.

STAFF Q/COMMENT: We've heard that people would like to drop off books. We are looking into how to integrated a "drop off" functionality making it easy for people to move through.

Q/COMMENT: I am an audio/visual consultant, regarding lighting and how creates a glare, maybe you should look into diffusion (ways to diffuse light).

A: We'll be looking at how to use indirect light and how to bounce light off the ceiling or light the shelves. You then get a diffused cloud of light and no glare. We appreciate the fact that people can't see the lower shelf and we'll be watching light levels.

Q/COMMENT: I think the idea of having quality food is a great idea. Not having a McDonald's.

A: (Cynthia Jordan / John Gillum) The RFP can be rewritten to be supportive to local vendors. The idea is to really reflect culture across the spectrum.

STAFF Q/COMMENT: Considering your Audio/Visual background, what are some technologies you would hope the library would offer?

A: That depends on if the spaces have air walls and dividers. Some ideas would be to have audio/visual speakers in ceiling and zone assignable microphones. Some ideas might be beyond scope of library.

Q/COMMENT: What I don't like about the current library is that it doesn't have much shelf space. I want more collections. You keep talking about the building itself, but it needs shelf space or else it's just a building. Austin is an historical city and we are the capital. I would like to see a modern library that reflects that. A structure that you can walk in and say I'm proud to be an Austinite. I use the library for its collection, the quite and it's a nice place to meet people w/ similar interests.

A: Maybe layers are needed. Perhaps rotating collections that tell a story. This helps create a sense of community. The Faulk library wound up being too small pretty quickly after it was built.

Q/COMMENT: There are 3 concepts I'd like to discuss. First, addressing cyclist. Having an atrium not just the curb and then you are at library but a space where you can enter with your bike. I have had bike lights stolen at the Faulk library. Also have the bike racks be positioned closer to library. Second, I'd like to see the library breathe life into the storytelling tradition. We are within a few years of losing that tradition, losing the significance of oral historians. I feel there should be a space for them to do their thing, and give thought into being able to record these performances that would then be added to the library collection. Lastly, I think there should be book hold and pickup services right up front (in the library) so you can come in quickly and pick up your materials. Creating an easy in & out flow

A: So what I'm hearing is that you'd like to see oral history created and captured to become part of the collection.

Q/COMMENT: Can you put in wiring now? For some small spaces, have capabilities to have meetings televised to the other branches or community channels.

A: We understand that incorporating the infrastructure now, is really important.



Q/COMMENT: There needs to be a balance between now and later. Is anyone talking to IBM or DELL for donations?

A: (Brenda) We have a relationship with Michael & Susan Dell. They have already given money to start youth centers. ("Connected Youth" provides use of laptops). The Friends of the Library Foundation have made connections with lots of organizations that show support by donating equipment or through funding.

A: (Tim) We are visiting with people throughout community to see what people want to get out of the new central library and to explore philanthropic intentions. However, keep in mind, we are pretty early in the process and it's hard to have specific conversations when we have yet to identify exactly where and how we need support. When we identify specific needs we can have more concrete discussions with foundations and individuals. We expect a significant amount of private support. But we are still trying to figure out what exactly where we'll need support and how much we'll need to hit that margin of excellence for this central library that the budget might not cover.

A: Programming and early design helps with that. The design process also helps.

Q/COMMENT: As far as sustainability, would like to see it be obvious, called out, educational. I would like for there to be informational signage, showing "here is our rain water gauge". Make our sustainability efforts transparent to the public and turn the process into a learning opportunity, especially for our youth. Also maybe displaying what amount of energy is be used for this or that. With regard to materials and designs, I would want it be low maintenance and still keep it looking nice. If trying to use a local, natural element, keep in mind for example that limestone doesn't stay looking nice it gets black & algae. Inside and outside the design should be easy to clean and easy to maintain.

Q/COMMENT: Spaces need to be reconfigurable for technology. Right now we have the technology to load books on to MP3 players. Even though we do not know where technology will be in the future, we know it's going to change. For example with bookshelves, can they be reconfigured inside the structure?

Q/COMMENT: I'd like to see more inter-library book loans and a drive-thru for when you don't want to park. The library should offer a better hold time right now it is very limited. The building should be fun. It should have a sense of humor so we don't take ourselves too seriously. This is not a monument to the builders but more about the people it's going to serve.

Q/COMMENT: We do not get many opportunities to build a grand building such as this here in Austin. I am interested in the water issues, I don't think the water component has been pushed hard enough. The future points to water use and we need to think about innovative uses of water. I know some buildings have tried using grey water in toilets and/or for irrigation. I would like you to look into to that concept

A: We would like for this to be the benchmark for the whole country. Water use is not an isolated element; it's tied into energy use. We have looked into many different ways to use water (to cool the building, irrigation, etc.). However, we are not far along enough yet to talk about these methods. We are investigating all options. Some are methods we can use in the building. However, we're not using these methods just to meet criteria but to do what's best for

the building.

Q/COMMENT: The fact is that the budget for running the building (operational cost) is not the same as the budget for constructing the building. We need a funding source. In the end we have to meet then budget, which will translate into there being tradeoffs. We need to build a building were you can trade out technology, having a sort of “plug & play” functionality. We need to be able to engineer new technology into old buildings. Therefore, it needs to be flexible.

Q/COMMENT: One of the frustrations I have with the Faulk library is the inability to find books when the online card catalog it says it's supposed to be in the library on the shelf. I am a technology geek and I imagine having tags on all the books that function as some kind of homing beacon.

Have you seen any cool technological advances having to do with this concept? What's the most creative thing you've seen?

A: We heard about the use of radio-frequency identification (RFID) tags and we are thinking about using a technology like that. It's sort of like an easy pass that reads the RFID tag with scanners within retail realm. This could aid librarians when scanning bookshelves in order to put books back in their right place. Basically this would function as collection maintenance, a way to automate the movement of books. Making the process less staff dependent. We are looking into automating as many of the processes as possible.

Q/COMMENT: Sometimes a library gets too full which makes it even more confusing. We need to start thinking differently about how we re-shelve the books and how to incorporate the use of technology to make this process easier. Perhaps with the use of self check-out machines on each floor so you can checkout from anywhere in building. Having a lot of these machines will result in people being more comfortable using them, as they are with using ATM machines.

Q/COMMENT: To go along with self check-out idea, we need to have more terminals to help find books. And have thee terminals or more in more convenient places.

Q/COMMENT: Maybe you can mount hand-held scanner machines on the shelves at an interval of every couple of shelves.

A: We've thought of having them in cell phones. By 2014, there might be applications like this available for the iPhone.

Q/COMMENT: There are variety of ways to make downtown more accommodating to families and children. Public buildings that are being built downtown should think about ways to be more inviting to this subsection of the population. The public library should be a model and accommodate both inside and outside. Create sculptures and/or kid friendly structures that display plaques that explain about them. This will appeal to adults as well as children. Inside, there should be history exhibits. You should partner with the historical society. Provide activities such as dress up in period clothing and having objects children can play with while learning since it is well known that children learn through touching things. The best way to get children interested is through play. And they are given the opportunity to use their imagination



when they see an exhibit.

STAFF Q/COMMENT: (addressed to child with parent) Why do you come to the library?

A: To have fun. To get books.

A: It might also be a good idea to have different areas for different age groups so that when children outgrow one space, they can move onto a new space.

Q/COMMENT: It is very important for it to be bike friendly. We need sufficient bicycle and scooter parking in safe and well-tracked areas. The bike/scooter racks need to be designed properly so as not to scratch up people bikes and scooters. Being how this library will be so close to the hike & bike trail, you will have a lot of bike traffic.

A: We know there are lots of wheels on the hike & bike trail and that people bike to work. The challenge will be determining the amount; how much is enough.

Q/COMMENT: How much of a dream would it be to have some sort of arboretum? Having lots of plants, or a garden? Playing with the concept of there being a "heart of the library" or a backyard that would need fencing. Can that be possible and is it worth considering? A reading garden with plants, water, etc.

A: We can certainly integrate landscape into the building. However I don't think it's realistic to have large arboretum because of the limitations of the site. Possibly having reading gardens, but maybe not on the ground floor. but instead adjacent to reading rooms in order to enjoy views of the lake, the city and the general landscape. To have that element is on our radar but we don't know how yet. It might be different than having a central oasis. We are also thinking about using reclaimed water as teaching tool.

Q/COMMENT: Austin has a lot of pigeons, and other birds that like trees, how are you going to address the bird problem?

A: One method would be to have netting on every window ledge like at the Faulk Library.

Q/COMMENT: What about parking, will there be a fee to park? The problem with this is that you feed the meter, then you get engrossed in a book or research but you aren't able to complete enjoy your time because it's always in the back of your mind that you need to re-feed the meter. There shouldn't be a time limit.

A: (John) As far as parking, we are willing to think about having a parking garage and organize it so that if you use the library, you can get your parking validated. We want the garage to be available for library patrons.

Q/COMMENT: Recycled Reads is a used bookstore located on Burnet Road and N Loop. We try to sell unused books, but then if we can't, we give them to an organization that sends them to Central and South America, as well as the Caribbean.

Q/COMMENT: With regards to the library kitchen, it should be large enough to also accommodate community meetings and that can be used by catering services, not just the staff. What about tinted windows?

A: We have seen performance issues with tinted glazing. There are city ordinances that mandate the amount of visible light coming into a building and glazing cuts down on daylight. We want to bring in as much light as possible because it's free and for there to be a balance so there is no glare and it doesn't create heat. We will also use less energy this way.

Q/COMMENT: There should be a play area for children. It can be a small area but a designated space for them to run around and let out steam, not a major playground. The space would require parent supervision. Also, the bottom shelves are annoying and hard to get to as well as being hard for the staff to shelve books.

SPEAKER 1: Megan Crigger – administrator for Art & Public Spaces Program

SPEAKER 2: Mr. Ricardo Solis with the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department. We are working closely with parks department during development, since we'll be along Shoal Creek and Lady Bird Lake.



Austin's New Central Library 11/12/09 Input Meeting North Village Library 6:00 – 9:00pm

Q&A Session

Q/COMMENT: We need more meeting spaces, There is a real deficit. There are currently no 250-seat facilities available for use.

STAFF Q/COMMENT: What kind of events?

A: Briefings where you invite the public or out of town for conferences. There are a lot of spaces that accommodate up to 100 people; some are free some you need to pay to use. There is very little available at the 250/350 person level, over that you have to go to the convention center. Having a mid range space would be very valuable.

Q/COMMENT: I don't live downtown but there are very few kid destinations that you'd choose to go to other than the children's museum or a festival. Right now, there is no reason to bring your children downtown. Maybe to visit Zilker park but that's not downtown. We need a public space that can incorporate child friendly spaces.

It would be nice to involve children so that every space in library isn't a quiet space. There is not a single playscape around in the downtown area and nothing that's close. The closest to downtown is at Central Market on 35th and Lamar.

Also, do you have the Downtown Commission on agenda to speak with them? I encourage you to consider visiting to that group. (John Gillum is giving a "thumbs up" to that idea.)

A: We agree that it is important for children to learn the value of the library early on.

Q/COMMENT: I like idea of the park setting around library. However, around our city we tend to under fund the operation of our parks. My question is to the commission, what is the city planning to do with the operating budget to support the library?

A: Actually that's something public can help with by asking for help from commission to advocate for better services.

Q/COMMENT: When you put the slide up that shows the AT&T center as a design example that frightens me because I think it's the worst building in city for meetings. If you are using that as an example, I hope you move in another direction.

A: We have a lot less constraints with the library than we had with the AT&T center. Even the Hotel San Jose was a very different project. We were responding to different clients in different ways. The Library Commission should be on top of that since a lot of people will be looking at the design.

A: With regards to your question about the operating budget, there's a novel arrangement in place. When the city sold Block 21, an area north of City Hall, there was an agreement made by the city council that said a large portion, 10 million, was put aside into a separate fund to be used for future library operating expenses. As part of the agreement, the community, led by the Friends of the Library Foundation would engage in fundraising efforts. As those funds accrue interest and the community matches the interest in a different Operating Endowment, which also accrues interest every year. The idea is that money will keep our libraries running. The Friends of the Library foundation will be leading a fundraising campaign.

Q/COMMENT: I live in the neighborhood we are meeting in right now. I agree with an earlier comment made that there is a need for smaller meeting spaces but there is also a need for medium sized meeting spaces. Spaces that you can reserve and could also be used by study groups.

STAFF Q/COMMENT: What size are you thinking about?

A: I have reserved space in east Austin for 6 people. But also for community type meetings and club type meetings consisting of about 30-50 people.

Q/COMMENT: I feel like you have skated over the parking issue too quickly. I hear that downtown has a surplus of garage parking. Are you taking a holistic approach to the parking issue?

A: We started hearing about parking problems a week after Central opened. We want to get it right this time. With the addition of a 350-seat auditorium we may need spill over parking. The Green Water Treatment plant will have underground parking. You can't build a central library with out parking. Also covered and secure bike parking will be a must since we will be on Lady Bird Lake and the hike & bike trail. Time is everything. When we are done constructing the library, other projects might not be done yet.

Q/COMMENT: One of the problems is that at the start, only 3% was devoted to design. I urge you to make it a priority since this is one of the last public buildings to be constructed.

Q/COMMENT: I work downtown and my work provides parking, it would be nice to have a trolley system to take to the library from work.

A: One of the planners involved in the process is Cap Metro. They are planning a major transit hub just a few block from the library. The area is undeveloped, but that's changing. We'll have the Seaholm development, which will include a hotel and restaurants, high rises and a cultural center all in this general area. We can't speak to there being a trolley system but they could come back.

Q/COMMENT: As far as meeting space size, I'm thinking of a group size that is more than will fit comfortably in my livingroom. I would like the spaces to be gathering spaces. And the gathers may not always be meetings but perhaps improv groups.

A: So the library should be able to encompass all. You want it to support the coming together of people, the gathering.

Q/COMMENT: Have something there for every age and interest.

Q/COMMENT: The library should be a destination and not so much about information. It should be inviting inside and outside; invigorating and inspiring. The tools are there and provide everything needed to gather.

Q/COMMENT: It should celebrate the threads of the city. Be vibrant and energetic, not studious.

Q/COMMENT: When will the library be open?



A: 2014

Q/COMMENT: I was inspired by visit to the Seattle library. I would also like to echo the suggestion about having a café. Someone said that libraries are boring, but in Seattle it's different. They have a "living room" where you can talk, read and drink coffee. There is public art throughout the building. They also have a screen that displays peoples searches so you can see what other people are reading or researching. They also have artist rooms. If you are a working writer, you could apply for a fellowship or apply to have use the room for a period of time. They also support their local authors.

A: (Art in Public Spaces speaker) There is a lot of support for the art on this project. Beginning in 1985, by ordinance we are given 2% of public projects (CIP - Capital Improvement Projects) to commission art work for this space. We are soliciting public input on the art for this library. The community will be involved in the selection of an artist and artists will present art to community for feedback & input. We are listening and your feedback is very important to us!!!

STAFF Q/COMMENT: Lake Flato integrates art into architecture in a meaning full way to showcase musicians, writers and artists in exhibition spaces. There's a wonderful foundation being built for this.

Q/COMMENT: I recently visited the San Diego Public Library and they had a rare book collection, which had its own space & curator. We have the Ransom Center, which is free and has rare books. However, the library has the opportunity to make these books more accessible. There should also be someone, who is knowledgeable about these books to guide people through the collection who can also educate the public. You could have limited release books, collector's items, pieces written on artisan paper, etc.. There is a lot of art in books and sometimes it's hard for the public to access.

A: Inter-library loans would make this content more widely available. And we should think about partnering with the Texas History center.

Q/COMMENT: I agree 99% with the concept being talked here about. However, I hope that the design team will keep in mind that there's a significant portion of us that still believe that a library should be a place where you get information, to learn, and to interact with librarians. It should be a place that promotes individual intellectual improvement.

A: We have heard that people love books and would like to see a place here you can read; have various spaces of noise level

Q/COMMENT: Will you have research carrells?

A: Teen focus groups told us they wanted more books around them.

Q/COMMENT: I would like to recommend that you look at the Georgetown public library, a local library which is very close to here. They have done a great job, they have a café, a teen area, a children's area, and meeting rooms that are busy all the time. The librarian has joked that he's had to become an event planner considering how many people request use of their spaces. They have actually had wedding, funerals and quinceria's in their meeting rooms.

Q/COMMENT: What the possible of having more natural lighting?

A: That is a definite possibility through the use of day lighting in combination with great glass

technology available today. Natural light through day lighting makes people feel more productive and awake. The Faulk library is darker partly due to the materials available at the time it was built. Joel Loveland talks about making this building into lighting fixture. Not relying mostly on electric light and using “up lighting” so you don’t get the glare associated with “down lighting”.

Q/COMMENT: What is the possibility of having public art, such as artwork created by muralist or graffiti/street art?

A: We will consider that as we are coming up with the outline. And also consider using exhibition spaces to rotate out art exhibits.

Q/COMMENT: Over the past 10- /12 yrs; we’ve been building up branch libraries.. central lib. Week link in sys; this branch has small collection; suspect that there are budget concerns to maintain collection..

A: They system acts as one large library. You can request a book through the system and pick it up at any branch. The central library and branch locations act as an ecosystem. We are aware that we need to create spaces for growth of collections and that over time there will be opportunities for growth of staff services as well. We also understand the need for a technology center, which will focus on providing stronger technological services and also avoids noise disruption of quiet spaces due to printers and other equipment.

Q/COMMENT: The new Ronald McDonald house has a platinum LEED rating, why are you only aiming for silver? Is it due to budget restraints?

A: We are considering a silver LEED rating as a baseline. Because whatever is considered LEED platinum today will change as we move forward. We are concerned with sustainability goals that make the most sense for this building type. We are looking to be silver LEED rated and beyond. We would like it to be site specific since there is no other site like it left downtown or anywhere around the city. Our hope is to create a library that is so site specific that it would only be on that one spot.

Q/COMMENT: My concern is that when large public spaces are being designed we are shown big grand pictures but I want to make a plea for small spaces. All this looks nice in pictures but I feel it doesn’t translate to being inviting. When there are small spaces to discover, that makes it exciting. There sure be a mixture of small spaces and big spaces. Also lets not loose the books! Libraries get redesigned then we can’t find the books. I would like to see the roof as a utilized space, to have some view and have spaces up there for people to gather. I’m afraid of loosing legacy hardware that information is stored on such as Betamax tape machines or old micro films, so that we can retrieve old data.

A: The new technology center may not play all, but will allow you to translate the information in to readable format (digital format). We will keep in mind that we need to keep historic formats vibrant and alive.

A: I echo your desire for the library to create intimate spaces where people can be alone together. We understand that it’s not always about big spaces.

A: The Austin History Center offers various formats of information & media. In fact, they have begged people for their out of date equipment.

Q/COMMENT: Regarding putting local writers in library – I would like to second that. One way to make that possible would be to separate these books from the main books. Give them their



own special space. Create pathways to get new writing in the library. Showcase writers by spotlighting them and link other centers together such as the Michener Center at UT or at the center in San Marcos. I would also like to see more exhibition space.

A: That something that could be tied into presentations and use of auditorium. Have an active program to raise visibility.

Q/COMMENT: Keep the collection accessible and tangible. Do not put it behind glass.

STAFF Q/COMMENT: Please go further into the site analysis map and explain the legend, vectors, lines, etc.

Q/COMMENT: We are patrons of the Faulk library and my 5-year old son has a digital music player. Right now, media is changing to digital; you can watch movies over internet and DVD's and CD's are going in the direction of becoming obsolete. How are we going to have access to media in a contemporary format? I'd also like to have the ability to discover new media at library, since it has to last for 30-40 years. What are you thinking in terms of design for media?

A: We understand that the container that holds content is always changing. We are imagining that you will be downloading books and other media to an MP3 player and that you might be downloading the same materials at home like you do with a movie. The fair use policy is always changing. We need to make all options visible. Training across the spectrum will be required because not everyone is comfortable with all technologies. We understand the portability of today's technology and how people bring their own. The challenge is to be nimble and flexible. We believe that the concept of "Print On Demand" will show up in libraries.

Q/COMMENT: Also keep children in mind when you are design the elements that will house these resources, so they are not too high and out of their reach. Media needs to be accessible at their level.

A: Yes, we will definitely keep that in mind during the design process.

Q/COMMENT: You were talking about green space, which I think is essential. A plaza would be wonderful however considering the type of heat we experience that would make it horrible to be in. Regarding the landscaping, this is a very tricky thing. You can go one extreme and follow Lance Armstrong, or follow a zero-scaping concept and use native plants to reflect what Austin's about. What are you considering?

A: During the sustainability charrette, we discussed being hyper local in our landscaping choices. If given the choice, every piece would be something that grows natively within Shoal Creek. We would like to be very site specific with plants and vegetation we use.

COMMENT FROM ALICE NANCE-PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT: Parks & Recreation department would like to make have the space certified by the National Wildlife Federation. To hear that all plants are going to be from one watershed is very exciting. The habitat will provide food, shelter for animals to live. It would be nice to have some of the meeting places outdoors and have outdoor reading rooms—to be in the habitat, reading about plants and animals in the actual habitat. We would like to see the site certified as best of Texas.. the highest level of certification in Texas. City hall is certified. So is Zilker Botanical Garden.

Q: Have you considered at all, because we want t his to be family-friendly, a pedestrian bridge over Chavez?

Currently, you can get underneath Shoal Creek. We are working with the city to discuss pedestrian crossing at lights, etc.

Q: Technology is going to be critical for this library. It needs to be a flexible, organic environment. How much can we incorporate feedback from our local experts? We have a public access channel. There might be an opportunity there.

A: We met this morning with CTM to kick off that discussion. We are starting to talk about flexibility in the future; how to enable that as we move forward. We also need to take into account technology cycles, appreciating that there are 3-4 technology cycles per year. We have to plan around that.

Q/COMMENT: Carver used to have a studio for public access. The new library could be a home for that. You could tie it into the auditorium.

Q: I am member of the library. I live in the city. Have lived here 12 years. I don't use the downtown library now because it's a challenging space. The last time I was there I felt uncomfortable. This needs to be addressed. I don't feel it's a welcoming space anymore.

A: Behaviors need to be framed. We need a larger space for more flexibility. Also, security, community partnerships, and materials that are easy to clean and maintain.



A New Central Library