



NoBo Branch Library

Community Engagement Events

August 3 - August 7

August 21 - August 29

Summary Report

WORKac

Submitted By:
WORK Architecture Company

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Summary

As part of the Site Selection and Programming phase for the new north boulder branch library, WORKac worked closely with the Design Advisory Group (DAG) to organize a series of community engagement events. The events were primarily located in North Boulder to encourage participation from neighborhood residents.

Intended to engage the local community, the events were designed to provide information and encourage public participation through conversations about the proposed sites and library program. WORKac ensured that members of the community were aware of the city's expectations and the criteria considered when studying the two potential sites, listened closely to the community's concerns and desires for their new library, and thoroughly documented responses at each event.

Seven organized events were held, including three open houses, one invitation-only stakeholder meeting, one meeting with neighbors of the potential library sites and two events in low-income, Hispanic communities in North Boulder.

Open House:

- August 3rd: NoBo Arts District First Friday (outside Hoi Poiloi) - 60 people
- August 4th: Plaza outside Amante Coffee - 60 people
- August 6th: Boulder Public Library (main) - 30 people

Stakeholder Meeting:

- August 6th: Wild Sage Community House - 10-15 people

Targeted Event:

- August 21st: Uptown Broadway HOA - 20 to 25 people
- August 24th: Book Rich Environments - 25 to 30 people
- August 29th: Meadows Mobile Home Park - 30 people

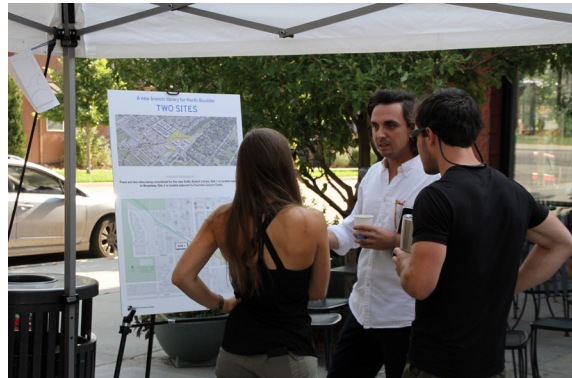
At each event WORKac displayed boards with images of their previous projects, basic information for each potential north Boulder library site, a series of questions and a general timeline of the project. The architects and members of the DAG were available during the event to receive community feedback.

Event Photos

Open House - NoBo Arts District First Friday



Open House - Plaza outside Amante Coffee



Stakeholder Event - Wild Sage Community House



Questionnaire

At each community engagement event questionnaires were available to fill out at the event or at home. These forms, printed in both English and Spanish, encouraged attendees to participate further and provide feedback on several key issues. The questionnaire form was also available online for a period of time to align with active engagement dates.

The four questions, worded to avoid explicitly favoring a specific site, aimed to identify metrics that focused on which amenities and services would be most valued from a new branch library in north Boulder.

113 completed questionnaires were collected at events with an additional 64 forms submitted online. Those forms were carefully reviewed and analyzed to inform the following findings.

Example of Questionnaire:

A new branch library for North Boulder

We want to hear from you!

About you (Optional)

Name

What is the best way to reach you if library staff would like to follow-up on your responses to this questionnaire?

Email:

Mail:

Cell:

NoBo

1 What do you value about the NoBo community or the current NoBo Library? What do you feel is missing in the NoBo community?

Library

2 What would make the NoBo Library more accessible or attractive to use more frequently? How would you use your new library? What service, amenity, or idea do you absolutely want to see included in your new library?

Sites

3 What elements of the new library site are important to you? (for example, outdoor space with trees, near local businesses, blends into neighborhood, etc.)

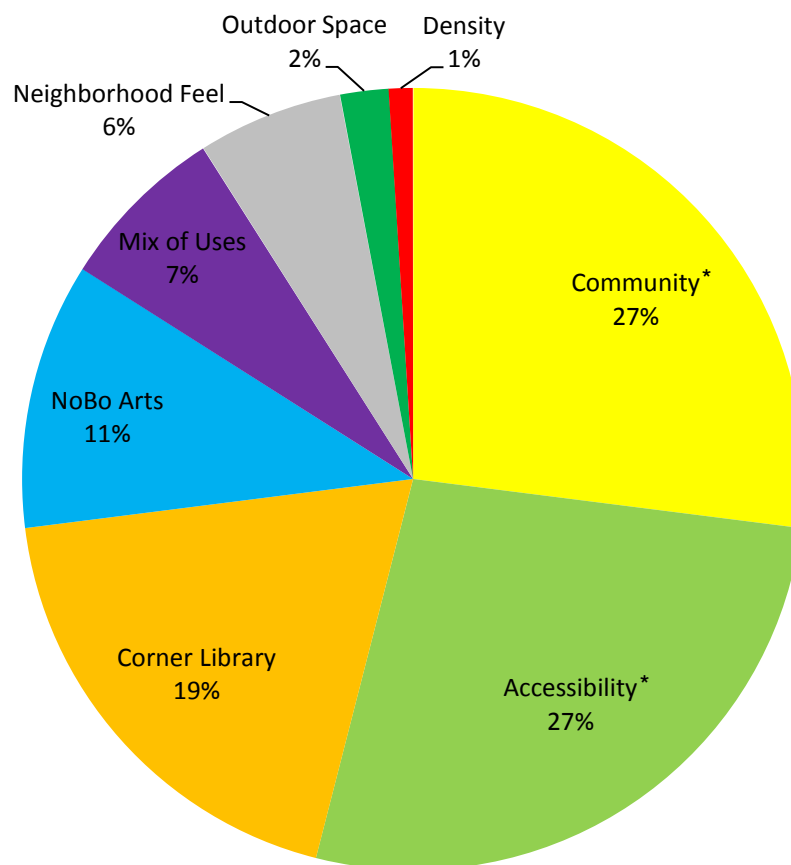
4 Is there someone else you recommend we talk with about this topic? Is there anything else you want us to know?

For more information and project updates, visit www.boulderlibrary.org/nobo-branch

Question 1, part 1A:

What do you value about the NoBo community?

Valued Elements of the NoBo Community



* Certain categories refer to a range of related responses.
A breakdown of common responses are listed below:

Accessibility

- walkability of neighborhood
- public transportation
- proximity to amenities

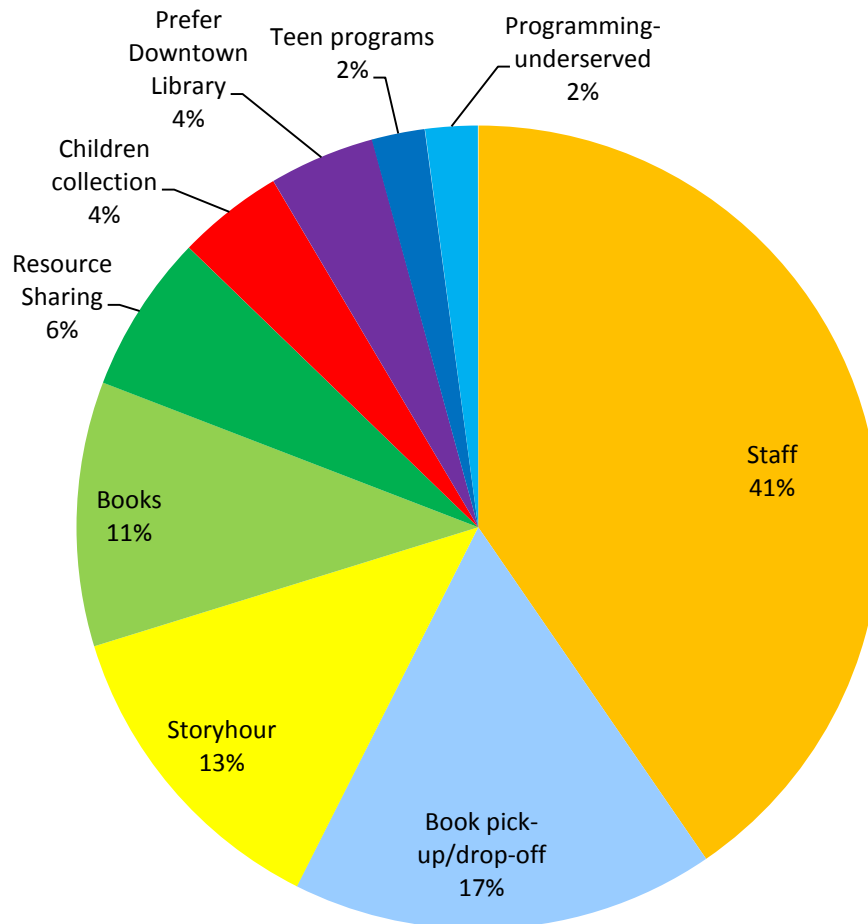
Community

- community
- people
- diversity
- creative community

Question 1, part 1B:

What do you value about the current NoBo Library?

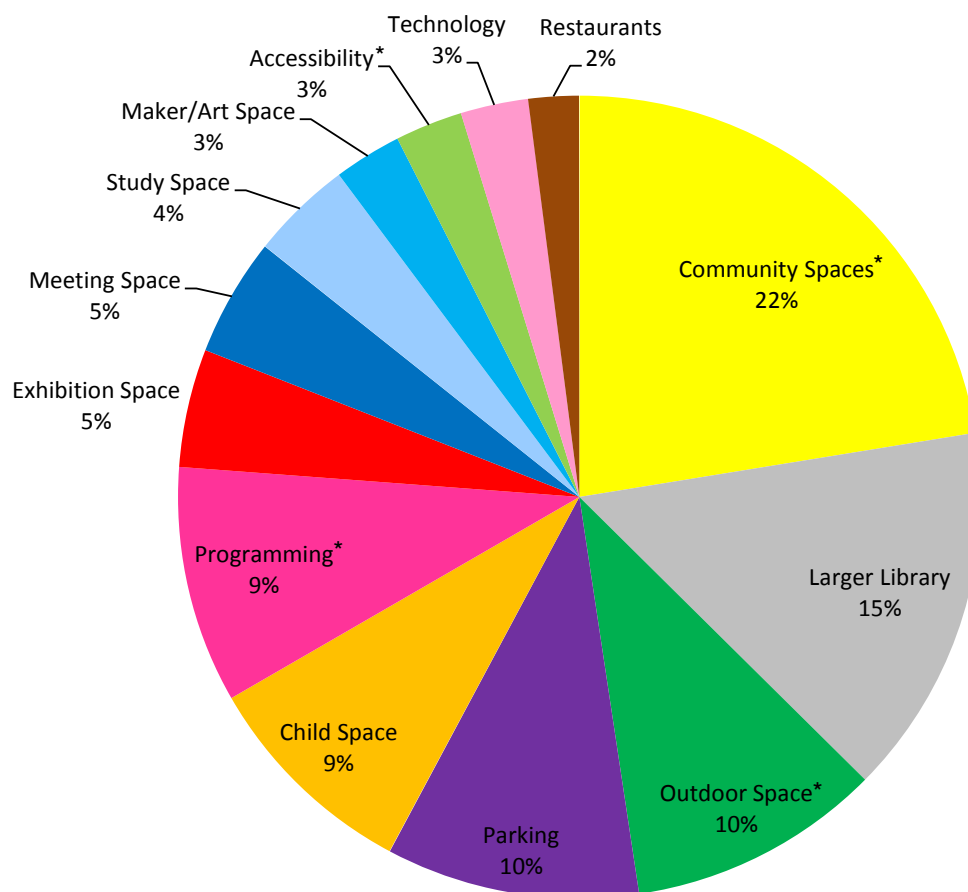
Valued Elements of the NoBo Corner Library



Question 1, part 2:

What do you feel is missing in the NoBo community?

Missing Services or Amenities in NoBo Community



* Certain categories refer to a range of related responses.
A breakdown of common responses are listed below:

Community Spaces

- community space
- gathering space
- family space
- event space

Outdoor Space

- outdoor space
- green space
- shaded area
- outdoor playground

Accessibility

- car accessibility
- bike accessibility
- walkability
- in close proximity

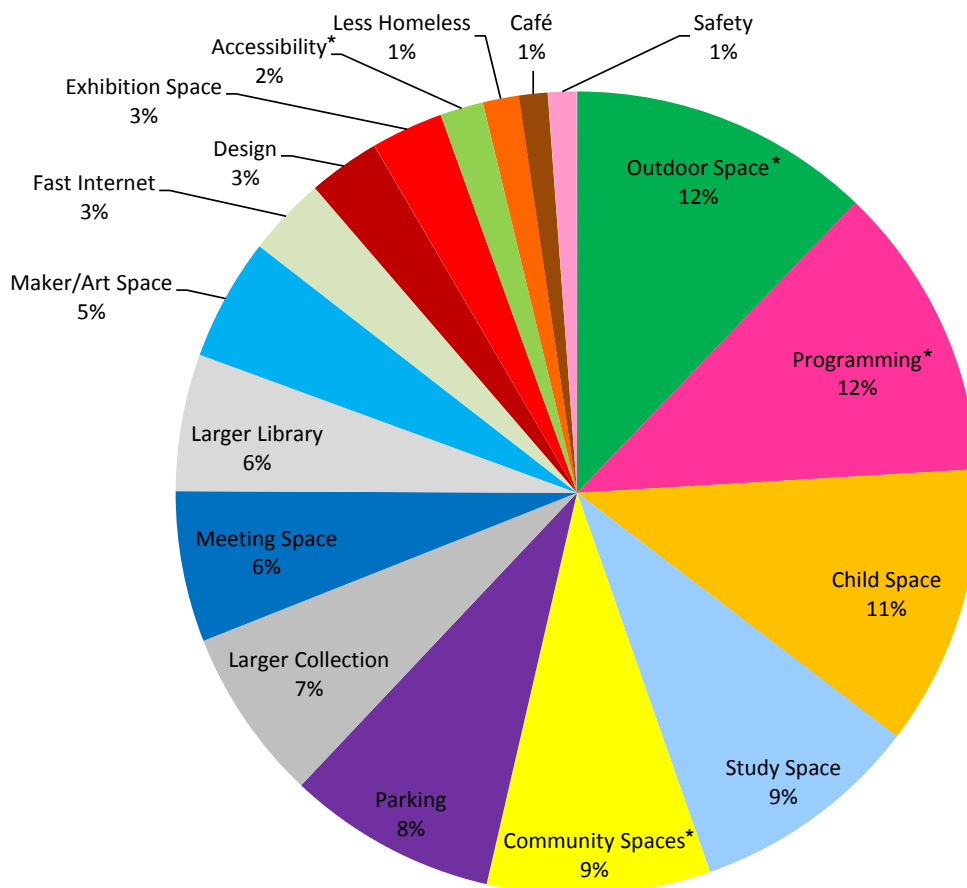
Programming

- public events/lectures
- care/classes for children
- programs for adults
- bilingual classes

Question 2

What would make the NoBo Library more accessible or attractive to use more frequently? How would you use your new library? What service, amenity, or idea do you absolutely want to see included in your new library?

Commonly Requested Service, Amenity, or Idea



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Accessibility

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- in close proximity

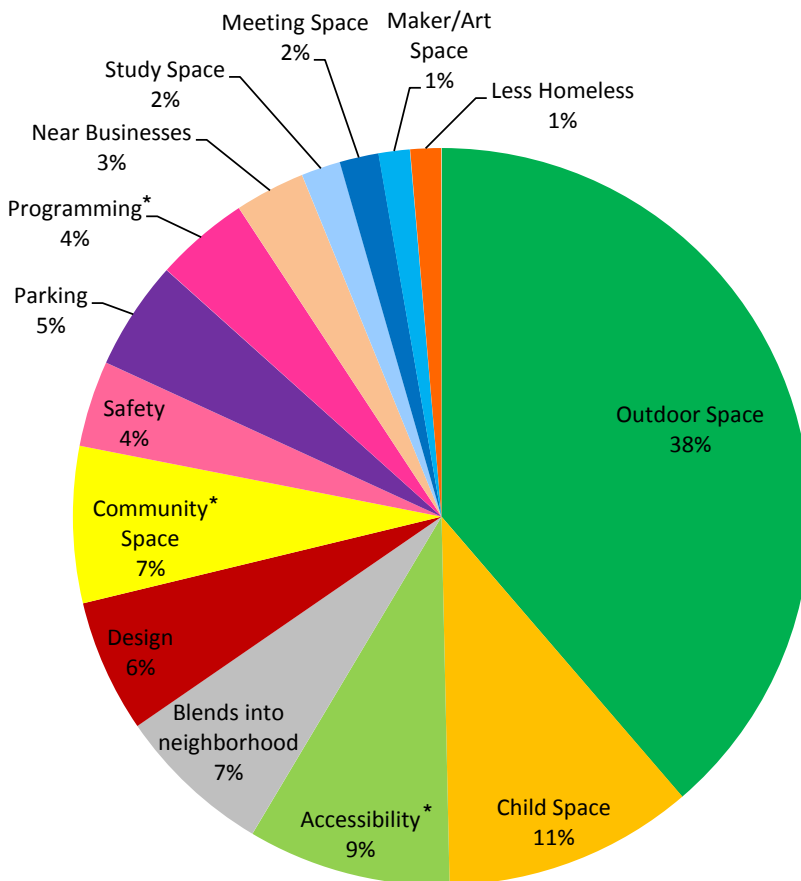
Programming

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- care/classes for children
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- bilingual classes

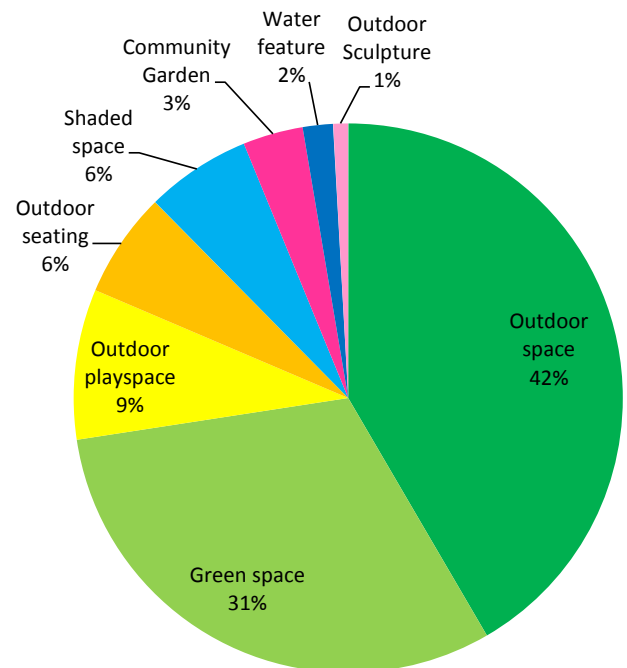
Question 3

What elements of the new library site are important to you? (for example, outdoor space with trees, near local businesses, blends into neighborhood)

Important Site Elements



Important Site Elements within "Outdoor Space"



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- event space

Accessibility

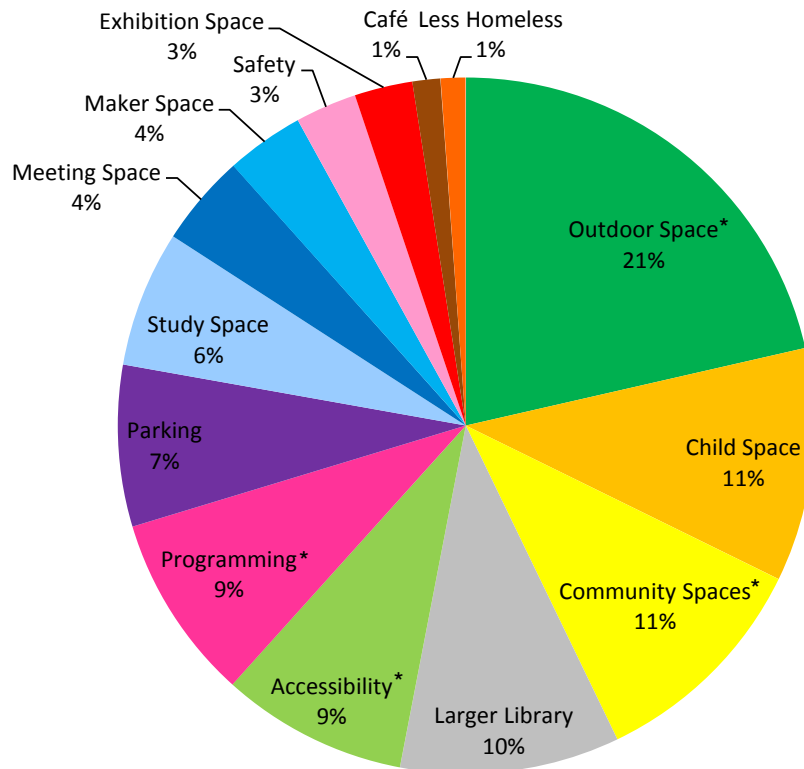
- car accessibility
- bike accessibility
- walkability
- in close proximity

Programming

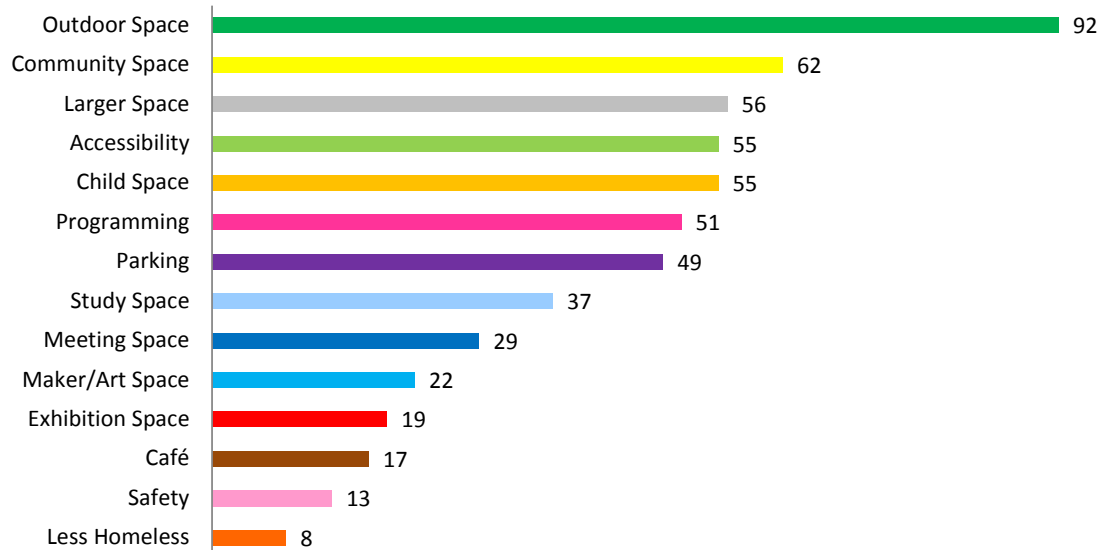
- public events/lectures
- care/classes for children
- programs for adults
- bilingual classes

Question 1-3

Requests as Percentage of All Descriptors



Requests by Number of Respondents



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A breakdown of common responses are listed below:

Community Spaces

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Outdoor Space

- outdoor space
- green space
- shaded area
- outdoor playground

Accessibility

- car accessibility
- bike accessibility
- walkability
- in close proximity

Programming

- public events/lectures
- care/classes for children
- programs for adults
- bilingual classes

Makerspace

The prospect of a new makerspace was a continual point of interest during the engagement process. In addition to the ideas brought forth by the questionnaires or during events, 14 patrons of BLDG 61, the Boulder Public Library's successful makerspace, were polled for their thoughts on what a makerspace in the North Boulder could entail.

Some common themes include:

Industrial Kitchen

- educational programming for kids and families
- a professional resource with after-hours availability for businesses
- a way to connect to the local community through farmer's markets, special events, or distributing food surplus'

Hot Shop

- welding classes and workshops
- resources to repair and fix engines or other metal-specific equipment

Design Lab

- work-share environment with software resources like Adobe Creative Suite
- access to digital fabrication tools, such as 3D printing, lasercutters, and large format printing
- classes and programs focused on computer science and programming

Children's Makerspace

- makerspace more focused on children and family programs
- activities and resources for STEM education

Art/Studio Space

- resources for art mediums such as painting and crafts
- opportunities to network and share ideas with other artists

Fabric/Textiles

- a space for textiles, with equipment and classes for using looms and sewing machines

"BLDG 61"

- a space similar to the one currently in the main library
- programs and classes similar to the ones currently held in the main library

In addition to these common themes, some residents and patrons suggested ways in which a makerspace could go beyond just providing a space to work and create. Ideas including a [storefront](#) connected to the makerspace, a [way for small businesses to launch or test a market](#), or possibly providing a [residency program for local makers](#).

Final Impressions

Concluding the first set of community engagement events, WORKac met with the Design Advisory Group to discuss common concerns and requests expressed throughout the weekend.

The following is a list of main talking points brought up during the meeting:

Site Preferences:

- The vast majority of people we spoke with at the community engagement events preferred Site 2.
- Nearly all families we spoke with preferred Site 2, with the exception of families in the Ponderosa Mobile Home park who preferred Site 1 because their kids would not need to cross Broadway to visit the library.
- Further analysis on Site 2 should consider a building footprint located closer to Broadway. This may help preserve the views of the condos to the north of the site, and improve the visibility and accessibility of the library.
- It is important to consider the possibility of future development of affordable housing on the Meadows parking lot and eastern half of Site 2.
- Many people who preferred Site 1 envisioned the library as a way to catalyze development on the west side of Broadway.
- Overall, participants were much more imaginative and inspired when discussing the possibility of a library on Site 2, becoming involved and more suggestive with ideas than when talking about Site 1.

Accessibility:

- Improving the Broadway underpass from its current state of neglect to make the site safely accessible from either side of Broadway. This development should be coordinated and informed by the Greenways Trail, which has approved plans and funding to renovate the area.
- Making the outdoors more available to minority communities who don't feel it is accessible.
- Moving the northbound SKIP line bus stop on Broadway closer to site 2 would help make the area more accessible by public transportation.
- Increased street parking and traffic on Rosewood Avenue were major concerns for some residents. Further studies on vehicle access to Site 2 must consider the traffic study commissioned from Fox Tuttle Hernandez to be completed during phase one of this project, as well as coordination with the city regarding the possibility of removing the cul-de-sac on 13th street.

Amenities:

- Preserving the sense of intimacy that people value at the current NoBo Corner Library in the new library.
- Bilingual signage and a partially-translated website.
- Mother's wellness room (required for staff).
- Gender-neutral bathrooms with a shared sink. Depending on code, these may be paired with gender-specific bathrooms.
- Other spaces that were common suggestions were:
 - Large community spaces.
 - A shaded outdoor space, children's play spaces and areas for outdoor seating.
 - A makerspace in the same mold as BLDG 61. The desired uses of a makerspace included textiles, food, technology and children's programs.
 - An exhibition space for local artists.
 - Performance and rehearsal spaces.
 - An afterhours space that is open and available after the library closes.
 - An outdoor plaza with a market or small amphitheater.
 - A co-working space or study space.
 - An exhibition space for the NoBo Arts scene. Members of the NoBo Arts District were flexible about what that space could look like.
 - Double-use spaces, or areas that are built to accommodate multiple programs.
 - Sustainability as something that is pedagogical and visible, such as looking into how wastewater or rainwater could be treated on site through recycling and filtration.
 - Close consideration of the spaces designed for children. While not explicitly wanting a childcare program, parents wanted to be able to watch over their children without being next to them. This could include creating a gradient of programs or mixing traditionally separated areas for kids and adults while maintaining clear sight lines.

Safety:

- Issues and concerns over the homeless population were brought up several times over the weekend. While illegal and unacceptable behaviors will not be tolerated, their presence is a right.

Other thoughts:

- It will be important to engage the youth of north Boulder at the start of the design phase
- Consider how the new library will become a gateway to both nature and the arts district.

Follow-up Events:

- While WORKac and the DAG were able to speak with many north Boulder residents, the Hispanic population was largely underrepresented at the first set of community engagement events. In response to these concerns, the DAG organized follow-up events to hear feedback specifically from Hispanic populations in Boulder Meadows and Ponderosa mobile home park. Some key takeaways were:
 - *Book Rich Environments hosted by Boulder Housing Partners*
 - This community benefited from connecting with residents verbally rather than handing out surveys.
 - Attendees described a desire for programs and classes aimed towards both kids and adults. This could include homework help for children or bilingual classes for reading and writing.
 - Other suggestions included ongoing outreach from the library to the Kalmia community in the evenings when more families are home from work.
 - *Boulder Meadows Mobile Home Park*
 - Residents reiterated the need to provide easy access from Meadows Mobile Home Park to the new library.
 - Incorporate a tool lending library.
 - Some residents expressed interest in commercial kitchen facilities.
 - Attendees requested General Educational Development (GED) and citizenship classes.
 - Spanish speakers specifically mentioned many challenges to getting to the physical library locations and stressed the need for outreach and on-site programming that would come to their communities.