



**BELMONT LIBRARY  
FOUNDATION**

# **Welcome to the Future Belmont Public Library**



04.05.2022

This booklet is created by the Belmont Library Foundation, a Massachusetts 501(c)(3) private foundation undertaking promotional and fundraising activities for the Belmont Public Library in support of construction of a new building. For more information about the Library Building Project and donation opportunities, please visit: **[belmontlibraryfoundation.org](https://belmontlibraryfoundation.org)**.

The building design and descriptions shown in this booklet are from the schematic design phase of the Library Building Project. These are subject to change with project modifications during the final design and construction phase. More information about the work of the Library Building Committee can be found on the library website: **[belmontpubliclibrary.net/about/building-committee](https://belmontpubliclibrary.net/about/building-committee)**.

**Building design, renderings, and plans by Oudens Ello Architecture.**  
**[www.oudens-ello.com](https://www.oudens-ello.com)**

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# THE TIME IS NOW



It's time to build a new home for the Belmont Public Library.

In 1902, Charles Underwood made a gift to his community that continues to change lives – Belmont's first library building. Dedicated to his parents and gifted to the town, the library was an affirmation of family, community, and the power of learning.

In 1965, Belmont residents carried that inspiration forward and built the current library, which has served the town for almost 60 years of tremendous growth in library services. Today, the Belmont Public Library is one of the most utilized in the state with circulation numbers reaching the 10th highest only behind much larger communities. Belmont residents rely heavily on our free public library for essential services and opportunities to connect with the community.

Now, in 2022, it's time to reinvest in the Belmont Public Library. Behind the hub of activity at the library is a failing building whose infrastructure is far beyond repair. To keep this invaluable town resource thriving, the building must be replaced. Support for the Library Building Project is growing, and we are closer than ever to making a new building a reality. More than 600 donations have been made to support the library's future, bringing our fundraising total to more than \$2 million. There is strong momentum for this vital project.

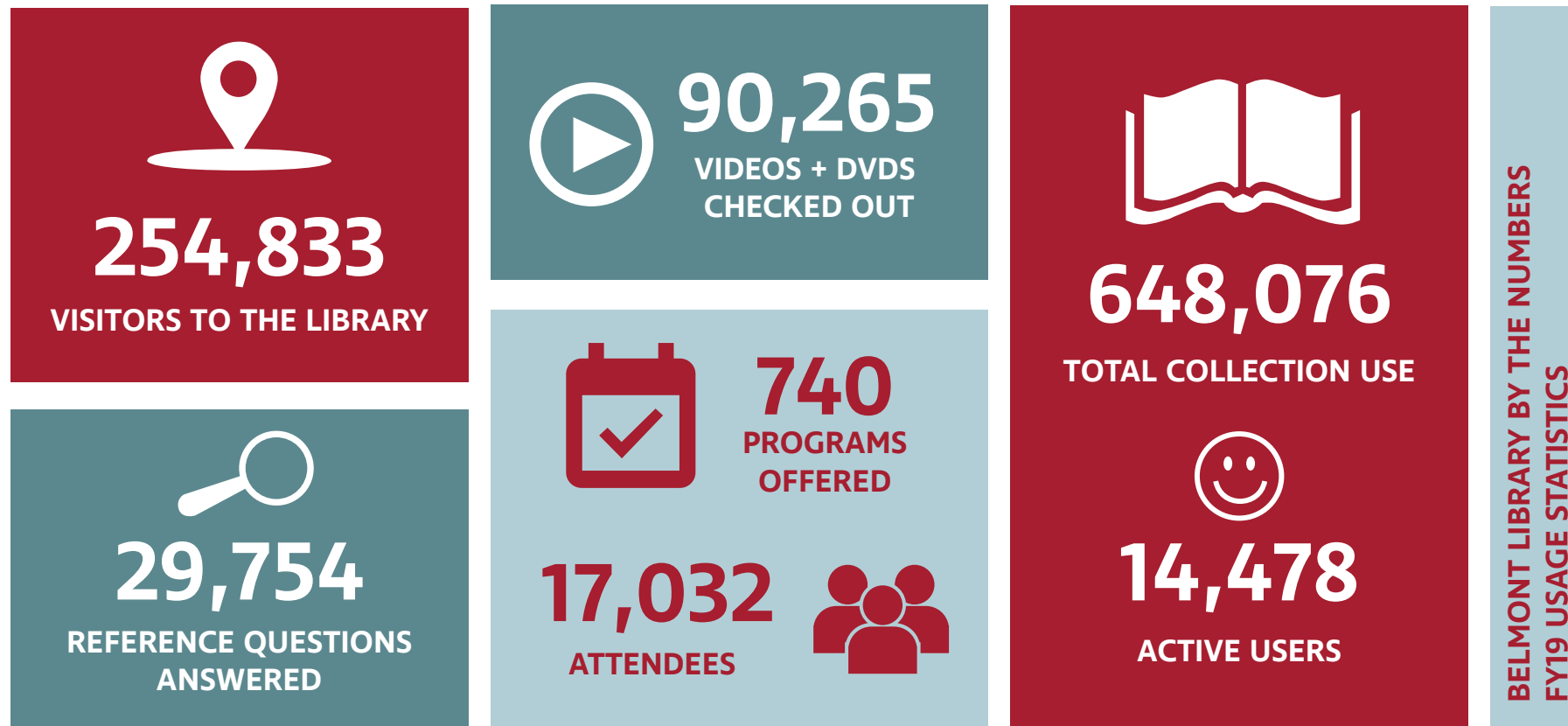
The time is now. Our library needs a new home, and we need your help to make it happen. Together, we can continue our town's legacy of a free public library for our families, our neighbors, and our community.

Sincerely,

*Marcie Schorr Hirsch*

Marcie Schorr Hirsch, President, Belmont Library Foundation

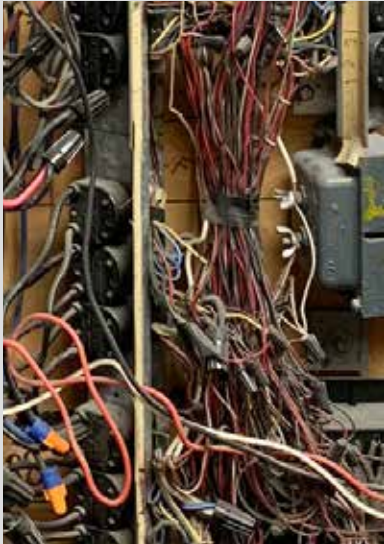
# THE BELMONT PUBLIC LIBRARY IS HIGHLY VALUED



**Our library is the 10th highest circulating library in the Commonwealth behind much larger cities and towns, such as Cambridge, Boston, and Newton ...**



**... but the building is so broken it needs to be replaced.  
To keep a library in Belmont, our library needs a new home.**



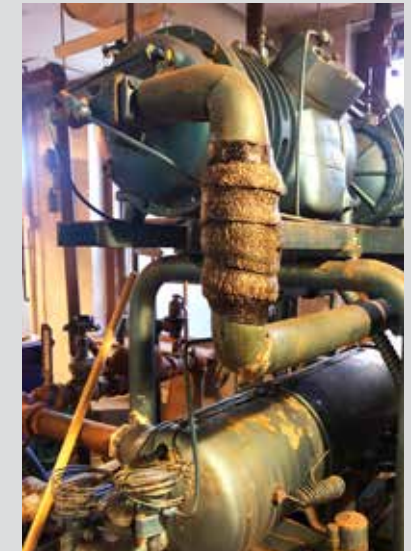
**OUTDATED ELECTRICAL  
SYSTEM IS AT END OF  
LIFE AND NEEDS TO BE  
REPLACED**

**ROOF DEVELOPS 8-10  
SIGNIFICANT LEAKS  
PER YEAR**



**HVAC FAILS  
REPEATEDLY, MAKING  
THE BUILDING  
UNINHABITABLE**

**FIRE ALARM SYSTEM  
IS UNRELIABLE AND  
NEEDS TO BE FULLY  
REPLACED  
(WHICH IN TURN  
REQUIRES A NEW  
ELECTRICAL SYSTEM)**



**BRITTLE PIPES CRACK,  
AND ANTIQUATED  
SYSTEMS ARE  
DIFFICULT TO REPAIR**

**THREE EXTERNAL EVALUATIONS OF THE FACILITY, CONDUCTED BETWEEN 1999 AND THE PRESENT, CONCLUDED  
THAT IT WOULD BE FINANCIALLY IMPRUDENT TO RENOVATE THE CURRENT FACILITY.  
TO READ MORE ABOUT THE BUILDING FAILURES, SEE [BELMONTLIBRARYFOUNDATION.ORG/THE-BUILDING-IS-FAILING](http://BELMONTLIBRARYFOUNDATION.ORG/THE-BUILDING-IS-FAILING).**

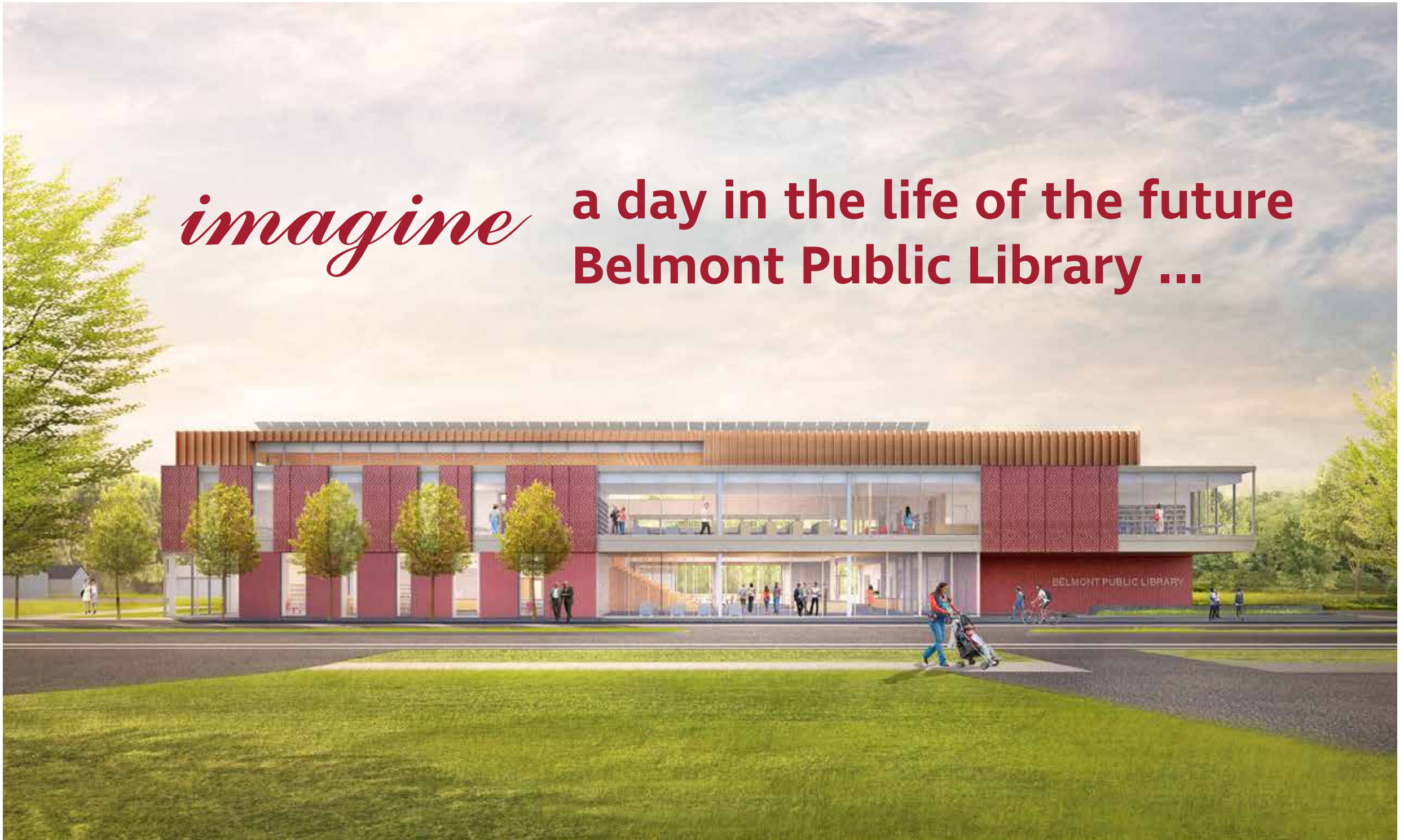
a space for everyone • after-school hangout • filled with natural light • free destination • job training • open to the public • outdoor classroom • safe and secure • accessible after hours • life-long learning • community hub • robust collections • fosters innovation and exploration • open space • access to technology • veterans memorial • flexible and adaptable spaces • enriching lives • chance to see neighbors • stroller parking • technology training • a place for concerts, galleries, author talks • intellectual freedom • open and inviting • peaceful • comfortable seating • sensory playtimes • a town necessity • ideas • resources • expanded programs and services • knowledge • larger children's and young adult spaces • meeting changing community needs • empowering • landscape integration • discovery • erasing the digital divide • responsive services • designated children's programming space • interaction • community open space • literacy • educational • community building • doorway to opportunity • ELL (English Language Learner) offerings • collaborative work/study spaces • multi-generational programming • student support • cultural programming • places for quiet and group study • community meeting space • senior services • heart of the community • endless possibilities • outdoor reading and gathering areas • something for everyone • brings people together • supports diverse needs of the community • sustainable design • welcoming and accessible to all

## **THE FUTURE LIBRARY**

**The new building, built by Belmont  
for Belmont, will provide a vital  
community hub for everyone.**



*imagine* a day in the life of the future  
Belmont Public Library ...



*imagine*

## A LIBRARY THAT IS WELCOMING AND FULL OF ENERGY



“There’s always something going on at the library – author talks, movie nights, knitting circles, tai chi. Honestly, it’s one of the busiest places in town.”

“At the old library, I couldn’t even come in the front door, and my wheelchair didn’t fit in the elevator from the basement. Our new library is 100% accessible. It’s a game changer.”



“Everything is free at the library, which makes a huge difference. I can come anytime – sit and study or meet up with friends – and I don’t have to buy a cup of coffee to sit down.”

### *the new library*

- Two-story, approximately 42,000 square foot building on the current library site
- Ground level entrance to fully ADA-compliant building
- Building complements and extends the revitalization of Concord Avenue
- Highly sustainable building with all electric systems
- Parking area consolidated to one side of the library (same number of spaces)
- Exterior Veterans Memorial



## **VIEW OF LIBRARY FROM CONCORD AVENUE**

The new library fronts Concord Avenue with the consolidated parking on the west side of the building and a new green space behind the library building.







I come every afternoon to read the newspaper in my favorite comfy chair in the Commons. It's my thing.

We rolled the shelves to the side and hosted a community fair on the entire first floor. We had at least 1,000 people come through.



*imagine*

## A LARGE LIBRARY COMMONS THAT INVITES THE COMMUNITY IN

It's bright and open and full of life, and I never know who I'm going to bump into. I spend a lot of time at those café tables catching up with friends.



### *the new library*

- Bright, open, and welcoming Library Commons
- Multiple seating options with small round tables and lounge chairs
- Flexible gathering space with movable bookshelves and stadium seating on stairs
- Lobby shared by all building entrances with sight lines that add to safety and security
- Circulation desk with independently accessed material holds and self-checkout
- Dedicated Friends of the Library space and book sale room



### **INTERIOR VIEW OF ENTRY LOBBY**

Everyone enters into the centralized light-filled lobby, a hub of browsing with a variety of seating types and views to different parts of the library.





The sound is amazing. My string quartet played a concert, and we had a real connection with the audience.

*imagine*

## AN APPEALING DESTINATION FOR MEETINGS, SPEAKERS, AND PERFORMANCES

I'm president of a local non-profit and we operate on a shoestring budget. The library's meeting rooms are an incredible resource for groups like ours.



My kids love the shows – magic, music, puppets. In the old library, the room could be too full, and kids were turned away. Now everyone fits.



### *the new library*

- Large, flexible community room with space for 150 seats for large meetings, workshops, performances, gallery exhibits, author talks, and more
- Attractive room with acoustical enhancements
- After-hours access when the rest of the library is closed

## VIEW OF THE LARGE COMMUNITY ROOM

Located directly next to the lobby, the ground floor program room can be accessed after hours (when the library is closed) to serve an even greater range of community functions.





“Last Saturday, my toddler wouldn't nap – so we went to the library. We did the 'craft of the day,' played with toys, and snuggled in the reading nook. It was a great day.



“I bring my grandkids. They can each do their own thing – learning some independence – and I can keep an eye on them both. It is a wonderful space!

*imagine*

## A BIGGER CHILDREN'S WING THAT EMBRACES BOTH LIVELY ACTIVITIES AND QUIET READING

“I'm a new mom. My little guy and I made a bunch of friends in the new Children's Wing. Now we all go out for morning walks – with a stop at the library!

### *the new library*

- Expanded Children's Wing with 5,730 square feet of space
- Self-contained wing centrally located on ground floor, adjacent to entry lobby for ease of visiting
- Dedicated programming/craft space within the wing specifically for children's activities
- Multiple reading nooks and play areas with toys and puzzles
- Secure outdoor program space connected to Children's Wing
- Stroller parking and a nursing room





## PARTIAL VIEW OF CHILDREN'S WING

The daylit children's area offers a mix of various spaces for differing ages and uses, including a dedicated program room and secure exterior space accessed only from the Children's Wing.





“Sure, I use the books, but I’ve also checked out a sewing machine, a video projector, and a telescope. How cool is that?”

“When ‘work from home’ makes me stir-crazy, I grab my laptop and head to the library. I sit at the Balcony Bar and enjoy having all the other people around me.”



*imagine*  
**A 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY LIBRARY THAT HAS  
SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE**

“When I lost my job, I discovered that the library had a Resume Writing Workshop. I don’t know what I would have done without it.”



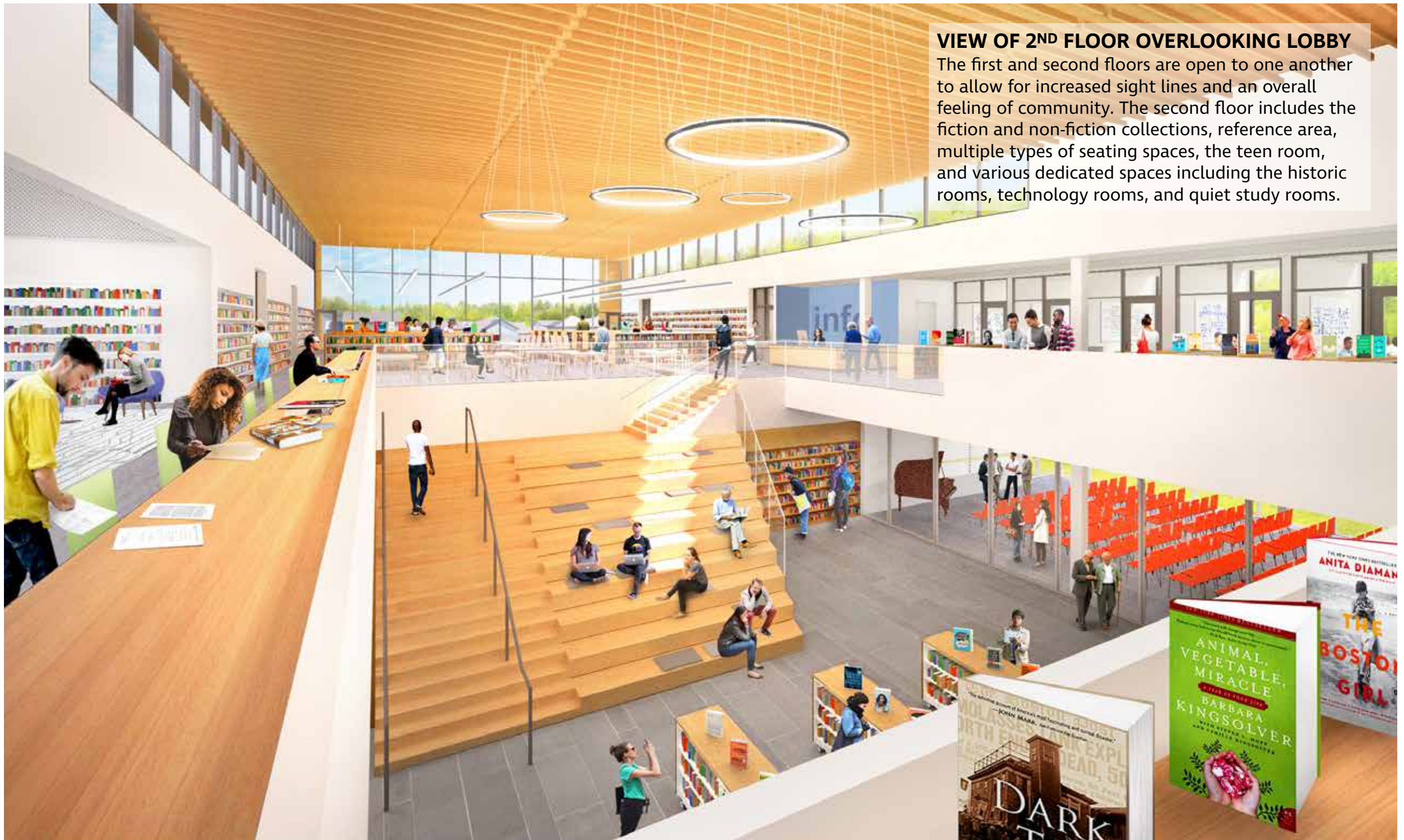
*the new library*

- Balcony Bar overlooking the first floor and lobby for work and study
- Innovation Center with studios and workshops
- Bookstacks with quiet, comfortable reading spaces and tables for spreading out
- Outdoor porch and wall of windows
- Library of Things collection of tech equipment, craft tools, gaming systems, musical instruments, etc.



## VIEW OF 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR OVERLOOKING LOBBY

The first and second floors are open to one another to allow for increased sight lines and an overall feeling of community. The second floor includes the fiction and non-fiction collections, reference area, multiple types of seating spaces, the teen room, and various dedicated spaces including the historic rooms, technology rooms, and quiet study rooms.





*imagine*

## AN INVITING HANGOUT FOR BELMONT'S TEENS



After school, we walk down from Chenery for the weekly 'Hot Chocolate Hang Outs' in the Teen Room. I guess we get \*some\* homework done!

Sometimes I have an afternoon client meeting, and I feel really comfortable that my daughter has a fun place to hang out after school.



We worked on our Egg Drop project for Physics in the Teen Room. We used the 3D printer to make some of the parts we designed and we got extra credit points.



### *the new library*

- Expanded Teen Room with 1,590 square feet of space
- Dedicated, enclosed space where teens can be teens
- Multiple zones for hanging out or studying
- Easy access to the Innovation Center
- Charging stations everywhere and high-speed connectivity



## VIEW OF YOUNG ADULT AREA

The teen room is on the second floor overlooking Concord Avenue. Acoustically separated but visually connected to the remainder of the second floor, this space is dedicated to library services for Belmont's young adults and provides a space to hang out and collaborate.







There are only two options for places to go at night in Belmont - a restaurant or the library. The library is really beautiful when it's all lit up in the evening.

*imagine*

## INDOOR + OUTDOOR READING AREAS



In the winter, when it's too cold to sit outside, the wall of windows gives me my sunlight 'fix' in the comfort of the warm library. It makes me happy.



I love to sit on the 2nd floor porch looking out over the Underwood Park and Pool and see people coming and going.

### *the new library*

- Large outdoor porch that can be used for reading or gathering
- The exterior porch is an additional option for library users who prefer to remain outdoors
- Plentiful natural light from the 'wall of windows'
- A bright, open feeling in what are traditionally cramped, shadowed bookstacks and dark reading rooms



## VIEW OF OUTDOOR PORCH + READING AREA

The traditional library bookstacks, quiet reading, and work zones are redefined by the 'wall of windows' that fill and energize the library with natural light.





“In the Innovation Center, I’m learning how to produce a podcast in the Studio. You couldn’t do that in the old library.”

*imagine*  
**SPACES DESIGNED FOR COLLABORATION,  
CREATIVITY, AND LIFE-LONG LEARNING**

“My mom meets with her language discussion partner in a Study Room; then she stays to read a magazine in the World Languages collection.”



“Our volunteer committee reserves a Collaboration Room for our planning meetings. It’s amazing how hard it is to find a room with a whiteboard outside of work and school.”



*the new library*

- Small study rooms for 1-2 people and larger collaboration rooms for 3-5 people
- Several flexible meeting rooms for programs and meetings
- Studios and workshops for building, creating, digital media, etc.
- Claflin Room and dedicated storage for Belmont historical displays and archives
- Quiet study tables, desks, and lounges throughout the library



## VIEW OF QUIET STUDY / COLLABORATION ROOMS

The eight small rooms on the second floor can be reserved by members of the community. They are ideal for 2-5 person collaborations, study sessions, and meetings.



While our daughter takes a library nature class by Wellington Brook, we sit in Adirondack chairs and read. It's beautiful out there.



*imagine*

## OUTDOOR SPACES THAT EXPAND THE OPTIONS FOR READING AND PROGRAMMING

I don't have WIFI at home. Every morning at 7am I head to the Outdoor Library and do my computer stuff before work. The library's not even open yet!



It's great to have an outdoor meeting space in town. I enjoy the sunshine, and I'm glad that all of our group members can have fun participating.



### *the new library*

- Secure outdoor program space connected to Children's Wing
- Outdoor classroom for programs and speakers
- Event terrace connected to the Belmont Community Room
- Chairs and tables for eating, reading, working, and chatting with friends
- Native plant landscaping and walking paths
- Preserved Woodland Gardens





### **VIEW OF EXTERIOR SPACES**

Behind the library, exterior spaces designed for various types of gathering, reading, and quiet reflection, overlooking the Wellington Brook.



*imagine*

## A BUILDING THAT SUPPORTS BELMONT'S SUSTAINABILITY GOALS



Over a decade ago, Belmont Town Meeting made a commitment to reduce our carbon emissions by 80% by 2050. The library's sustainability features can help us get there.

It's important to me that the library is doing its share to address climate change. Every choice matters.



### *the new library*

- A south facing solar photovoltaic (PV) array
- All-electric systems (no fossil fuels)
- A highly insulated building envelope
- Glazing/glass under 40% of the building envelope area
- Daylighting with window and skylight placement selected to maximize effective internal lighting
- Stormwater management systems
- A rain garden filtration system
- Native vegetation
- Car charging stations



## ENERGY EFFICIENT BUILDING SYSTEMS

An all-electric VRF mechanical system contributes to a Zero Net Energy-ready building by eliminating fossil fuel use and reducing energy consumption through it's high efficiency operation



## NATURAL DAYLIGHTING

Natural light is invited deep into the library interior to illuminate reading spaces and reduce electric lighting loads



## SOUTH FACING SOLAR PANELS

Roof-mounted photovoltaic (PV) panels contribute directly to the library's energy needs and reduce the building's overall ecological footprint



## NATIVE PLANT SPECIES

Native species are restored along the banks of Wellington Brook to maintain the longevity of the brook landscape and provide an inviting teaching tool



## HIGH PERFORMANCE ENVELOPE

The library's walls, roof and windows are highly insulated to limit energy transfer and maximize the efficiency of heating and cooling systems



## HEALTHY MATERIALS

Interior finishes and furniture use sustainable materials to ensure the long term health and wellbeing of the library occupants and library collection

## STORMWATER MANAGEMENT



Vegetated swales and rain gardens capture and filter rainwater while runoff is reduced using permeable paving in place of conventional asphalt



## ACTIVE LANDSCAPE

Outdoor walking paths and intimate reading spaces create an active landscape along Wellington Brook linking the library, Woodland Garden and Underwood Pool & Playground





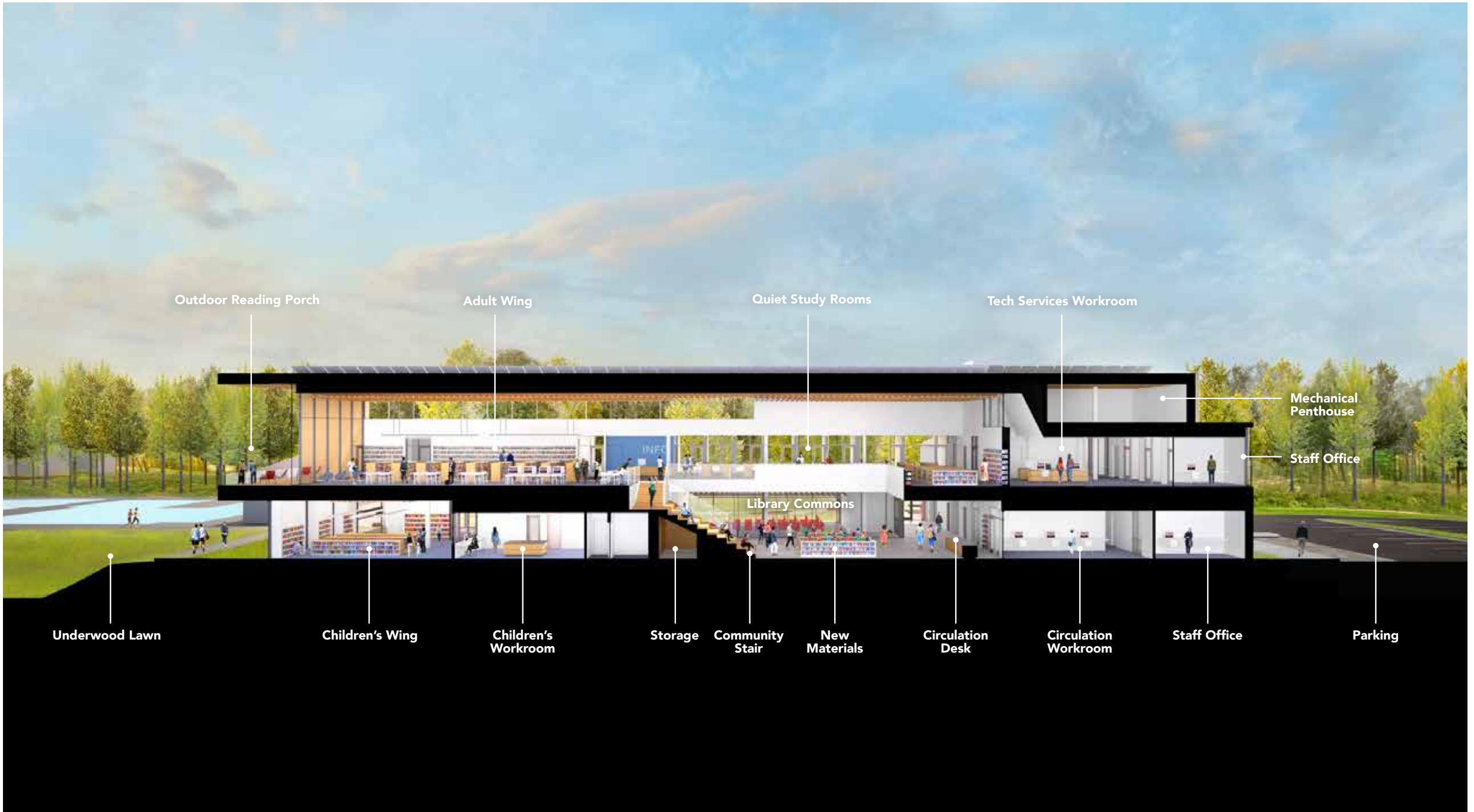
**GROUND FLOOR PLAN**





**SECOND FLOOR PLAN**





**LONGITUDINAL SECTION SHOWING FIRST AND SECOND FLOORS PARALLEL TO CONCORD AVENUE**





**TRANSVERSE SECTION SHOWING FIRST AND SECOND FLOORS FROM FRONT TO REAR OF LIBRARY**





**... together, we can build a legacy**



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Learn more at [belmontlibraryfoundation.org](http://belmontlibraryfoundation.org)



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