

BELMONT

PUBLIC

LIBRARY



BELMONT LIBRARY PROJECT

A NEW CHAPTER FOR BELMONT

SEPTEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

LIBRARY BUILDING COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

The Library Building Committee (LBC) met throughout the summer and in early September to review updated building plans and to finalize the schematic design.

Enhanced features of the new building design include:

- A main entrance with an exterior Veterans Memorial area
- A more sustainable, energy-efficient design, including solar panels, electric heat pumps, and an overall glazing/glass reduction
- An increase in the number of study rooms

Library Building Committee members, Library staff, and the Board of Library Trustees also spent the summer meeting with many community groups and town organizations, including the Historical Society, Veterans' Services, the Community Preservation Committee, and many others. Feedback and suggestions from these groups were incorporated into the schematic design to ensure that the new library reflects the needs of the Belmont Public Library and the greater Belmont community.

SUMMER READING PROGRAMS – PARTICIPATION GROWTH

This summer it was beads galore for the younger set, and patches and exciting events for Belmont's teens. Participation in the Children's and Young Adult Summer Reading Programs surged both in the number of summer readers and in event participation. Reflecting the increased usage of the Belmont Public Library and tight space constraints in the current building, the number of teens, tweens, and youngsters joining library programs illustrates why the Belmont Public Library is such a valued community resource and why larger programming space is an imperative in the new library design.

Close to 950 children participated in the Children's Room Summer Reading Program. "Summer Reading 2019 was a tremendous success for the Children's Room. We implemented our first ever Read and Bead where children were able to earn different kinds of beads for the time they spent reading. We heard a great deal of positive feedback from families and were kept quite busy by all of our participants," said Deborah Borsuk, Coordinator of Children's Services.

On the young adult front, the Teen Summer Reading Program went from 97 teens attending 16 teen-only programs in summer 2018, to more than 345 teens attending 36 teen-specific programs this summer. Teens are showing that their desire for library programs is on the rise and aligns with the Library Building Committee's goal of putting forth a building design that meets the needs of everyone, from the library's youngest patrons, to young adults, to those who have used the library for years.

The next generation of library users were actively engaged this summer and look forward to a fall filled with events, programs, and reading (of course).

SCHEMATIC DESIGN PREVIEW & COMMUNITY MEETING MID-NOVEMBER

The Library Building Committee, the Library Board of Trustees, Belmont Public Library administration, the Design Team, and the Belmont Library Foundation are planning a mid-November schematic design preview event. Community members will have the opportunity to hear about and view:

- Detailed interior and exterior renderings of the building
- The building's sustainable, energy-efficient features
- A detailed preliminary project budget

A date for this event will be finalized in the near future. We hope to see everyone at this meeting as we move into the next chapter of the Belmont Library Project.

KEY UPCOMING DATES

Thursday, September 26

Board of Library Trustees Meeting

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM – Belmont Public Library – Flett Room

Tuesday, October 1

Library Building Committee Meeting

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM – Belmont Public Library – Assembly Room

Thursday, October 3

Friends of the Belmont Public Library Meeting

9:30 AM – 11:00 AM – Belmont Public Library – Assembly Room

Saturday, October 19 – Sunday, October 20

Friends of the Belmont Public Library Book Sale

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM – Belmont Public Library

QUESTIONS?

We welcome your ideas and comments through the LBC [website](#) or by emailing info@belmontlibraryfoundation.com.