

Columbus Metropolitan Library and City of Dublin Library/Learning Center Visioning Workshop Summary

Overview

On Thursday, November 3, 2011 the Columbus Metropolitan Library (CML) and the City of Dublin gathered twenty-four community leaders, staff members and key stakeholders to participate in a visioning workshop. The list of attendees is attached (26 invited, 24 attended) along with the session agenda. The primary focus of the workshop was to begin brainstorming the potential for a new CML Dublin branch library combined with a co-located or adjacent learning center. A facilitator was used to keep the group focused and on schedule during the four-hour session. All attendees were asked to review a list of "pre-reads" which can be found at <http://dublin.oh.us/21st-century-learning-center/>.

The group's facilitator, Catherine Tuck Parrish, opened the morning's session with introductions, an overview of the agenda and ground rules. This was followed by brief presentations from Pat Losinski, Executive Director, CML and David Schnee, Principal, G4 Architecture. Pat Losinski discussed the Columbus Metropolitan Library (CML) vision, strategic plan and perspective of a new Dublin branch. David Schnee provided an overview of the CML 2020 Vision Plan and the Northwest area analysis. Marsha Grigsby, Dublin City Manager, and David Dixon, Principal, Goody Clancy, then presented on the Dublin perspective of a new library and learning center. Marsha Grigsby provided an overview of Dublin City Council goals and strategic focus areas as they relate to this project. David Dixon discussed the Bridge Street Corridor plan and the significant role a library and learning center could play in the Corridor. The final presenter, Dr. David Harrison, President, Columbus State Community College, provided examples of successful community college partnerships with other agencies.

Subsequent to these presentations, the participants, who had been placed into four groups, began brainstorming around six key questions that were divided into two separate categories as show below:

Brainstorming Session #1 – Shared Vision, Components, Programming, Partnerships

- Is there consensus among the attendees as to the shared vision of this potential project?
- What could be in the space (components/programming)? Attendees were able to voice their thoughts regarding everything and anything this "community gathering space" could be.
- Who might partner on this project to leverage the community's rich intellectual capital?

Brainstorming Session #2 - Location, Location, Location

- What characteristics would be found in the ideal location of the Library and/or of the Learning Center?
- With regard to the current library site, what are the pros and cons of its location?
- What are the pros and cons of potential new sites?

What follows is a summary of the individual group responses for each of these key questions.

Question 1: Is there consensus among the attendees as to the shared vision of this potential project?

All four groups were asked to discuss whether there is a shared vision among all of the participants related to a new library and workforce development center. The groups were in agreement that there is a shared vision and discussed areas of consensus, and opportunities to leverage this unique combination of partnerships. The last group, while in agreement with a shared vision, raised several questions related to timing and roles that need to be discussed and clarified as the project moves forward.

Group 1

This group agreed that there is a shared vision around the following areas:

- Shared Opportunities
- Collaborative Process
- Shared Goals Leading to Outcomes

Group 2

This group agreed that there is a shared vision and opportunities related to the following:

- Think 21st Century BIG
 - Phasing
- Not Separate – not silos
- Combine Strengths & Leverage
- Opportunity to Define what is a Learning Environment
- Maintain Enthusiasm
- Maximize Impact
 - As a Catalyst for Vision of the area
 - Share Infrastructure

Group 3

This group agreed that there is a shared vision and opportunities related to the following:

- Catalyst – “Build it & they will come”
- To create a valuable, urban environment – vibrant place to spend time (critical to flexibility, adaptability and transformation)
- Attract next generation workforce
- Desire to create partnerships to share and expand resources
- Become a model for community
- Facilitate diverse cultural experiences

Group 4

This group agreed that there is a shared vision and opportunities, yet discussed the following questions that need to be answered to best solidify that shared vision:

- With this type of shared use, what is the business model for success? Are there best practice examples to be learned from?
- Is the Library 1st? Or does it follow other development?
- Public/Private/Other – who does what?

Question 2: What could be in the space (components/programming)? Please provide your thoughts regarding everything this "community gathering space" could be.

Group 1

Must Have

- Multi-purpose spaces
- Family
- Education (Formal & Informal)
- Shopping
- Health & fitness
- Integration to Community
- Inter-generations
- Places for open communication (small meetings)
- Small business resources – coaching – assistance for start-ups
- Still have physical resources but with digital as well

Nice to Have

- Business
- Career planning & fairs
- Multiple means of access
- Multiple partners
- Attractions
- Hands-on
- Cultural Center
- Library Assets (what it will offer)
 - sharing & ideas, shared history & resources
 - Source for continuous learning
 - Help others – problem solving

Group 2

Must Have

- Food
- Technology Petting Zoo (test out the latest tech developments)
- Parking
- Meeting and Gathering Spaces (flexible to change)
- 21st Century Classrooms
 - On-site, on-line
 - Tech rich, distance learning

Nice to Have

- Arts and Culture
- Adult Education Component
- Workforce Development
- Post Office
- E-Gov
- Retail

Group 3

Must Have

- Variety of sizes of meeting spaces – shared learning (1 on 1, Skype/virtual meeting, homework help, study space/quiet space, creative space/flexible space – spontaneity, facilitate connections)
- Learning repository (books, electronics, people/experts, end product=interaction, learning/continuing education opportunities)
- Entertainment (food, shopping/bookstore/music), film festivals, attractive to a variety of users (students, young adults, children, adults)

Nice to Have

- Adjacency – 21st century main street
- Program/community groups (physical locations for a variety of groups and interaction - critical mass)
- Learning – with others - “anchor tenants”

Group 4

Must Have

- Classrooms
- Café
- Flexible Meeting Space
- Media Center – “Techcentric”
- Outside Commons (w Technology)
- Space for student groups to meet
- Homework & Job Help Centers
- College Support / Success
- Training Space
- Teleconferencing
- Creative Studios (ex. Art, You Tube, Story Corp)
- Inside Performance Space
- Elder College / Senior Component
- Community Theater
- Open Space – Future use (inside)
- Drive-up window

Nice to Have

- Art & Culture (multi-purpose) inside & outside
- Community Calendar
- Diversity / culture
- Jellies
- Collaboration space
- Daycare
- After School
- Outside Performance Space
- Biz Incubation
- OCLC Lab – Innovation Lab
- Retail / Food
- Genius Bar
- 24/7 Book lockers

- Bike Share
- Sustainability / Learning Lab

Adjacent

- Grocery – small
- Residential
- Retail
- Farmer’s Market
- Health Club
- Financial Institution
- Athletic Fields
- Government Services

Question 3: Who might partner on this project to leverage the community’s rich intellectual capital?

Group 1

- Technology resources (Apple, Microsoft, Dell, Sysco, etc.)
- Health Systems (Ohio Health, OSU Health)
- Business as education resource (Chamber of Commerce)
- Schools & Education (Dublin Schools, Hilliard Schools, OSU & Community Colleges, Career Centers)
- City of Dublin
- Library System (CML, University, Tech, OCLC)
- Economic drivers (2020 / Tech Columbus)

Group 2

- Center for Workforce Excellence
- Residents – Funding – Volunteer
- Columbus State & Other Higher Education
- Chamber of Commerce
- Columbus Metropolitan Library
- City of Dublin
- Dublin Arts Council
- Clusters of the following groups
 - Hospitals
 - I.T.
 - Public Schools
 - Pre-Schools
 - Parks & Recreation Shared Program
 - Tech Columbus Entrepreneurial Center

Group 3

Existing

- City of Dublin
- Dublin Arts Council
- Historical Society
- Columbus State

Future

- Hospitals/ Health Organizations
- Dublin Counseling Center
- Human Services
- School Systems
- Other Mixed Uses (to help fund -housing, parking, institutional)
- Dublin Entrepreneurial Center

Group 4

- Dublin Arts Council
- School District(s)
- Dublin Historical Society
- OCLC
- Universities– Columbus State and others
- YMCA
- COSI
- Faith-based community
- Montessori

Question 4: What characteristics would be found in the ideal location of the Library and/or of the Learning Center?

Group 1

- Green Space
- Easy Access to Community, Housing and Shopping
- Easy Access to Roads & Highways
- On “Main Hub” of Community
- Sufficient Parking Access
- Safe
- Vibrant, Walkable Mixed Use Environment
- Sustainable
- Multi-use

Group 2

- Where people want to be
- Someplace you can walk to
- Someplace you can drive to
- Walkable once you get there
- Someplace you can bike to
- Space to co-locate with our most important partners
- Plenty of parking
- Common parking / not dedicated parking – *predictable*
- Near / anchor mixed use
 - Retail
 - Cultural Entertainment
 - Not necessarily Governmental
- Green space / nice view / park space
- Vertical

Group 3

- Iconic and a catalyst
- Mixed use/urban
- Visible on main road
- Visible thru glass
- Programmed to "activate" street
- Transit accessible
- Interactive with the outside
- Iconic space - seen as community center
- Integrated with public art
- Walkable to community facilities & partner activities
- In the Bridge Street Corridor
- Bikepath accessibility
- Integrated, shared parking

Group 4

- Sufficient Horizontal and Vertical Space
- Central Location
- Walk/Bike/Drive/Kayak!
- Safe
- Ample parking
- "Green" surroundings
- "Civic" space
- Visible – Building markets the services
- Supports design "Wow"
- Convenient
- The right adjacencies
- Street visibility

Question 5: With regard to the current library site, what are the pros and cons of its location?

Group 1

Pros:

- Familiarity
- Successful
- Vibrant
- Resistance to move

Cons:

- Access
- Off Main St.
- Visibility
- Congestion
- Residential Density
- "Suburban" Design – dated/old

Group 2

Pros:

- Known
- Adds to historic area – serves as anchor
- Central location

Cons:

- Other counties use it
- Too small
- Too far from partners
- Lack of high density housing

Group 3

Pros:

- Tradition
- Gardens
- Historic District

Cons:

- Parking
- Street visibility
- Auto accessibility
- Site size

Group 4

Pros:

- Customers like it
- Known quantity
- Charming - "Ha"
- Cost-effective
- Valuable real estate

Cons:

- Space / footprint
- Parking
- Dublin "Image"
- Stodgy design
- Landlocked
- Can't expand (design/function)
- Under-sized
- No meeting space
- Inflexible
- Dated infrastructure
- Other counties don't fund it

Question 6: What are the pros and cons of potential new sites?

Group 1

New Location:

- Move the Cons to Pros (from existing location)
- Supports Sustainable Design
- "Catalytic" Location
- Transit
- Transparency in Design

Other Sites:

- OCLC - Development Opportunity
- Coffman Park - Back to Suburban Feel
- Current - More Density
- Consensus on Bridge Street Corridor

Group 2

New Location:

- Pros:
 - Some have good green space
 - Some have space to grow
- Cons:
 - Some have no housing
- Pros and Cons:
 - CML wants to be in the #1 spot – where things are happening
 - CML wants to be on a "main" street
 - CML drives with needs

Group 3

New Location: (Bridge Street - just west of Historic District)

- Pros:
 - Visible
 - Near ravine
 - Close to Historic District
 - Site size
 - More public
- Cons:
 - Timing
 - Displaces Middle School
 - Cost
 - Complexity of mixed-use development model
- OCLC Site
 - Ease of land acquisition
 - Attractive site

Group 4

New Location:

- Pros:
 - Council's political will to move from existing site
 - Better use of existing site is possible
 - Unlimited potential
 - Development catalyst
 - New partnerships
 - Cost effective
 - Shared infrastructure
 - "Great" library – not just "good"
 - Best use parking
 - Known unknowns
 - Play – fun
 -
- Cons:
 - Move our library?? sentiment
 - Cost
 - Funding
 - Timing /alignment with other CML projects
 - Unknown unknowns
 - Future digital /analog uncertainty
 - Uncertain land acquisition
 - Out-of-county funding
- Potential Sites
 - Existing
 - Historic Dublin / School Site
 - Coffman Park
 - OCLC
 - Bridge Pointe "area"