

Cos Cob Library

Renovation Project

KEY INFORMATION

For several years, Greenwich Library has explored renovating the Cos Cob branch. The building is well over 20 years old and is in need of refurbishment.

- In 2022, a plan was approved to enhance the branch and expand the community room which was in line with the Library's strategic plan of "targeted enhancements" for the branch.
- Concerns raised by community members were heard and as a result, the Library Board of Trustees paused the project.
- The pause is a period of reevaluation in order to best assess the long-term space needs of the branch.
- The reevaluation will take several months of work with a community survey, site studies, and site planning.
- Please keep an eye out for the community survey, which will be released in the coming weeks.
- Any plan being presented to the community at this time is not a Library-endorsed plan, but it will, like all other options, be reviewed during this process.
- It is expected that the Library's Buildings and Grounds Committee will make a recommendation to the Board of Trustees later this year.



Greenwich
Library

greenwichlibrary.org/cos-cob

WHY WAS THE ORIGINAL PROJECT PLACED ON PAUSE?

Due to increased interest from the community, the Trustees decided to pause the current planned renovation to reassess all space options at the branch.

WHAT WAS THE ORIGINAL PLAN?

The original plan called for a complete refurbishment of the branch interior as well as the addition of 300 square feet of space for the community room. It also called for the addition of a patio on the exterior for outdoor programming.

WHAT IS THE LIBRARY DOING DURING THIS RE-EVALUATION PERIOD?

The Library's Buildings and Grounds Committee will be working with an architect to conduct a space analysis of the Cos Cob branch as part of a larger master plan for its development. This will include looking at potential avenues of expansion of the branch through parking studies and site usage as well as collecting internal data and conducting a community survey. We will consult with neighbors and other community organizations to gauge their views. This data will inform in which ways the branch will be renovated.

WHAT IS THE TIMELINE OF THE EVALUATION PERIOD?

Buildings and Grounds will be conducting their evaluation through the Spring with a recommendation to be made to the full board. It is believed that renovations will begin within the upcoming fiscal year.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE COMMUNITY SURVEY?

The community survey will collect data from the Greenwich community on branch usage (i.e. how much and in what ways) as well as collect input on how the community would like to use the facility. The survey will be distributed Town-wide with extra outreach to the Cos Cob neighborhood.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE PARKING STUDY?

The parking study will help the Library understand the usage of the parking areas related to the branch and how they are being used respectively by different facilities in the area.

HAVE ANY SPECIFIC PLANS BEEN ENDORSED BY THE LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES?

No specific plan has been endorsed by the Board except for the original plan which has been placed on pause. Other plans have been advocated by community members, but these have to be fully reviewed by Library committees in tandem with all other options.

WHAT CRITERIA WILL THE LIBRARY BOARD USE TO SELECT A LONG-RANGE SPACE PLAN FOR THE COS COB LIBRARY BRANCH?

Criteria will include feasibility, impact on operations, neighbor impacts, community needs versus existing facilities, and costs.

WHAT FUNDING SOURCES WILL THE LIBRARY USE TO FUND THE PROJECT?

This depends on the final scope of the project. However, like all renovations the Library has undertaken at its facilities, it may be expected to be a combination of public and private funding.

