Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh
Homewood Branch Renovations
7101 Hamilton Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15208

Overview
Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's 2024–2028 Strategic Plan embraces the mission to "foster literacy, enable exploration, and create connections with all our neighbors." To carry out this mission, the Library Administration has been improving branches to make them more dynamic, welcoming, and accessible.

Now is the moment to transform the Homewood Branch, to express the ideals of the 2024–2028 Strategic Plan, to reflect the unique character of the Homewood Community, and to serve the needs of today's patrons.

Project Description
The Alden & Harlow–designed Carnegie Library Homewood Branch is a Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation Historic Landmark and has served the Homewood Community since 1910.

The branch is a two-story (plus basement) load-bearing masonry building totaling 24,700 square feet, and which last underwent renovations in 2003. One particularly unique feature of the facility is a 300-person auditorium, accessed via a below-grade entrance along North Lang Avenue.

Although the services have evolved some since the last renovation, the branch's current services largely reflect strategies and priorities from the time of the 2003 Capital Improvements. The current Capital Improvement Project will once again transform the branch by adding new services and improving the building's infrastructure. Input from a broad range of stakeholders has been compiled into a comprehensive list of objectives for the Homewood Branch, and which address every level of the building.

Lower Level
- Make the auditorium venue more welcoming to both audiences and performers.
- Improve accessibility to the auditorium venue.
- Create a flexible multi-purpose space that can also serve as a lobby for refreshments and socializing during intermissions.
- Update the public restrooms.
- Add an accessible family restroom.

Main Level
- Make the branch more welcoming to patrons by:
  - Refreshing the entry w/ new illumination for the glazed ceiling and new flooring.
  - Installing a new circulation/reference desk w/ greater visibility to entering patrons.
- Create a dedicated Teen Space with updated programmatic elements, including:
  - A "Chill" space.
  - A sound booth.
  - Improved points of service.
  - A textile arts space.
- Refresh the Adult Reading Room w/ updated services.
- Refresh the Children's Reading Room w/ updated services, including:
  - A "Chill" Space
  - A Crafts area.
- Improve accessibility, including adding family restrooms.
- Include a dedicated area for showcasing the Homewood Community and neighborhood happenings.

Mezzanine
- Create a Staff Work Room.

Second Floor
- Refresh and update the Large Public Meeting Room.
- Provide an updated Small Public Meeting Room.
- Improve accessibility, including adding family restrooms.
- Renovate the existing Staff Lounge area.
- Improve storage.

Exterior / Site
- Construct a welcoming entry addition along N. Lang Avenue, fitted with an elevator to provide an accessible, direct route from the N. Lang public right-of-way to the below-grade auditorium.
- Install new low-maintenance landscaping to rejuvenate the site.
- Reset and restore the Grand Stair Entry.
- Add architectural site lighting to properly showcase this vital community institution.
- Replace the roof.
- Perform masonry restoration as needed.
- Paint the arched window frames and replace 48 rectangular double-hung windows.

Infrastructure
- Lower operating costs by:
  - Replacing mechanical equipment throughout.
  - Replacing electrical equipment, including adding building management controls and new LED lighting throughout.
- Improve the building envelope's energy efficiency by:
  - Adding insulation at the roof level.
  - Replacing 48 rectangular double-hung windows w/ insulated glass units.
  - Adding storm-window inserts to the existing arched window frames.

Together, these improvements will transform the Homewood Branch—ensuring it continues to fulfill its mission as a cornerstone of the Homewood Community for generations to come.

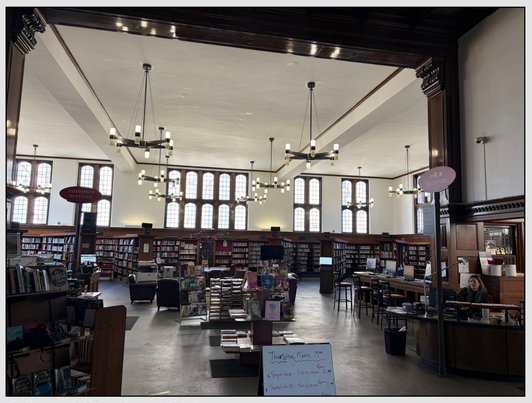
Design Team
Architect: Elagin Architecture, Inc.
MEP Engineer: WNA Engineering, Inc.
Estimation Services: Imperial Construction Services

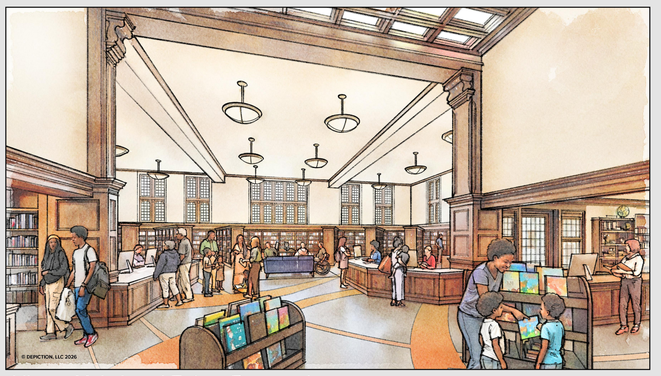
The Design Team appreciates the opportunity to serve the Homewood Community and would like to thank the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Administration, the Homewood Branch Staff, and everyone who has provided feedback to ensure this project's success.



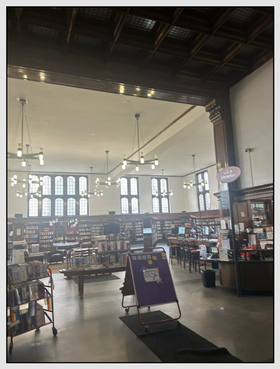
Vicinity Map - Not to Scale


Hamilton Avenue Facade

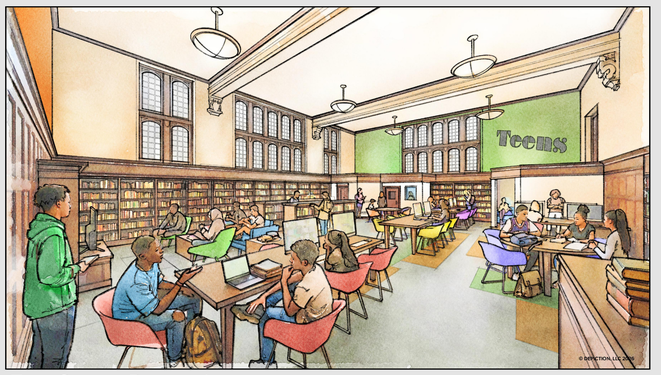

Library Main Level Entry


Library Main Level Entry - Proposed


Hamilton Avenue Monumental Stairs


Entry Glass Ceiling


Glass Ceiling Viewed from Above

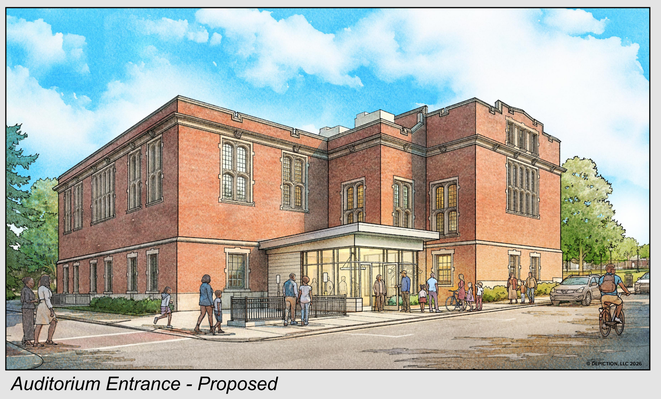


Teen Space - Proposed


N. Lang Avenue Facade



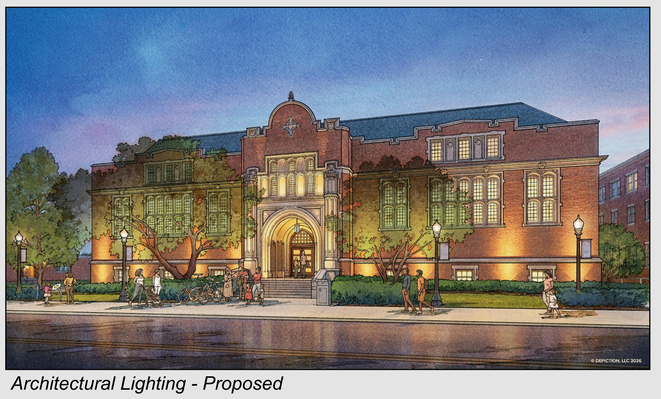
Main Level Teen Space


Auditorium Entrance - Proposed


N. Lang Auditorium Entrance


Auditorium Entrance


Main Level Children's Area


Architectural Lighting - Proposed


Existing Roof


Hamilton Avenue Facade at Night

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