



# KITCHEN TABLE DISCUSSION GUIDE

New Central Library  
**THINKING BIG! CONCEPT DESIGN PHASE**

Close date Feb 19, 2021



**SASKATOON  
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

# INTRODUCTION

Thank you for helping inform the concept design for Saskatoon's new central library by hosting a Kitchen Table Conversation.

Kitchen Table Conversations are part of our broader community engagement process. You are contributing to a process that includes:

- Online surveys and interactive activities.
- Meetings with key community stakeholders and groups.
- Facilitated community workshops.
- Consultation with volunteer resident advisory groups.

Kitchen Table Conversations are designed for a small group of people who get together to talk in a comfortable and informal setting. They are great for people who would rather have a conversation than complete an online survey or attend a public forum. The Discussion Guide helps facilitate a conversation with family, friends, neighbours and colleagues about the new central library.

Anyone can host a discussion. All you need to do is bring together a group of people who are willing to participate. Participants don't need to be an expert on the subject of libraries or architecture. All they need is a willingness to listen and share ideas.

The information that comes out of your discussion will help the new central library design team achieve the project's vision of being a welcoming, inclusive and barrier-free place for everyone who calls Saskatoon home.

## LET'S GET STARTED

This guide will help you host a Kitchen Table Conversation.

Included in this guide is:

- Background information about the new central library project.
- Information for conversation hosts.
- Information and guidelines for the meeting.
- A feedback sheet for recording the conversation.

# TIPS FOR HOSTING

1. The setting should be comfortable and informal: a home, coffee shop, or during the pandemic, a telephone or video call. Please follow all COVID-19 public health orders.
2. Invite up to five people that you know.
3. When you invite people, direct them to the new central library website so they can learn more about the project at [saskatooncentrallibrary.ca](https://saskatooncentrallibrary.ca).
4. Plan for your discussion to take about 90 minutes. Suggested times are listed to keep your event on track.
5. Be prepared to moderate the conversation to make sure that you hear from everyone and that no one dominates the conversation. Also, you'll need to make sure that everyone acts respectfully, even if they disagree with another participant.
6. Your final job as host is to make sure the feedback and opinions of the group are recorded and submitted to the library.

# GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION

1. Speak on behalf of yourself only.
2. If you are not speaking, listen to others openly.
3. Assume the best intentions of other participants.
4. Be mindful of others and make sure everyone has the opportunity to participate and contribute.

# PREPARING FOR THE DISCUSSION

As the host, you have an important role as facilitator. Your role is to read and understand this guide so that you can answer questions and help others. Your role also includes documenting the feedback and opinions of your group.

Kitchen Table Conversations are not votes. It's not about the number of people agreeing or disagreeing. It's about capturing a wide-range of perspectives, ideas and opinions.

# PROJECT OVERVIEW

It's important to understand the project, which is why we have provided background information. We ask you to read it to your participants to help guide and inform Kitchen Table Conversations.

## Project Vision

The new Saskatoon central library blends traditional library service with new and innovative spaces, programs and services. It will enable SPL to adapt library services to meet the changing needs of patrons into the future. SPL envisions a new central library that will be infused with the spirit of this community, Treaty 6 Territory and the Homelands of the Métis, and be a source of inspiration and pride for those who call Saskatoon home.

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Is a welcoming and accessible hub.</b>	Inviting ambience that promotes a sense of well-being with the incorporation of natural light. Spaces engage and inspire people of all cultures and ages, allowing cross-connection and learning between generations.
<b>Has space for a large and diverse collection of materials.</b>	Easily browsed and navigated collections. Popular and new materials are organized and displayed using retail concepts.
<b>Has a variety of spaces to meet the needs of the community.</b>	Meet public needs for privacy, collaboration, or social interaction: individual study, private meeting rooms, and group work areas.
<b>Is a place for learning and innovation.</b>	Capable of meeting the technology needs of patrons now and into the future.
<b>Is flexible &amp; functional for evolving operations.</b>	Employee work areas have an efficient operational flow that includes logical points of access to public service areas, materials processing, and storage areas.
<b>Is of this place (Saskatoon).</b>	The new central should also acknowledge its geographic location as a Winter City. Considerable care was taken to plan a project that's aligned with the values of Saskatoon, which is a beautiful and inspiring, yet functional and efficient use of space that will meet the needs of a dynamic, growing and continually changing population.
<b>Is universally accessible.</b>	The building will accommodate people with differing abilities.
<b>Demonstrates environmental leadership.</b>	The building will achieve LEED® Gold status.
<b>Advances Reconciliation in Saskatoon.</b>	The Canadian flagship of public library recognition of reconciliation, Indigenous culture and history.

For more information, visit [saskatooncentrallibrary.ca](http://saskatooncentrallibrary.ca).



15 minutes

# Which spaces are you **MOST** looking forward to in the new library? Check all that apply.

<b>New Central Library Space</b>	<b>Participant</b>					
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
Children's theatre						
Children's play zone & climbing structure						
Café						
Theatre						
Demonstration kitchen						
Audio & storytelling recording studio						
Video recording studio						
Post-production studio						
Teen area						
Video gaming space						
Programs. Programs. More programs.						
Local History						
Indigenous storytelling & learning circle						
Innovation labs for crafting & digital tools						
Computers						
Books! I'm all about books!						
Comfy reading chairs with great views						
The quiet reference & study space						
The art gallery						
Greenspace (indoors & outdoors)						
Everything!!!						

10 minutes

**Saskatoon Public Library has set community leadership goals in reconciliation, sustainability and accessibility. Do these goals align with your vision for the future of Saskatoon? What hopes do you have for the future of Saskatoon?**

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10 minutes

**As a community, what collective strengths can we draw on to move from where we are now to where we'd like to be? What will help us get there? How can the library support your vision?**

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10 minutes

## Why are you proud to call Saskatoon home?

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15 minutes

## What local characteristics do you hope to see reflected in the library's design?

(examples: plants, landscapes, materials, colours, textures, images, landmarks, animals, etc.)

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# ABOUT YOUR GROUP

Host name \_\_\_\_\_

Host phone \_\_\_\_\_

Host email \_\_\_\_\_

Host postal code \_\_\_\_\_

Date of conversation \_\_\_\_\_

How many people participated? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to be contacted about future consultation opportunities?

Yes  No

How were the participants connected to you? Check all that apply.

Family  Friends  Colleagues  Community Members & Neighbours  Other

# THANK YOU

Thanks very much for taking the time to gather and share your thoughts on this important project for our city. Your feedback and ideas will help ensure the new central library meets the needs of all Saskatoon residents for generations to come.

## How to return your complete Kitchen Table Conversation Workbook

### 1. Email

Send the completed worksheets to: [hello@saskatoonlibrary.ca](mailto:hello@saskatoonlibrary.ca).

You can send photos or a PDF of your responses.

### 2. In-Person

Drop it off at any Saskatoon Public Library location.

You can place it in the book return or bring it to the service desk.

## For more information or for assistance

[saskatooncentrallibrary.ca](http://saskatooncentrallibrary.ca)

[hello@saskatoonlibrary.ca](mailto:hello@saskatoonlibrary.ca)