



**New Central Library**  
**WHAT WE**  
**HEARD**

**FINISHING TOUCHES**  
Design Detail Phase

Jan 26–Feb 11, 2022



**SASKATOON**  
**PUBLIC LIBRARY**

# THE DESIGN PROCESS

The design of the new central library will take about 18 months to complete. It began in January 2021. There will be a series of consultations at each key design phase, which will enable everyone in Saskatoon to help shape the new central library.

## COMPLETE

### Project Requirements | Functional Plan

The functional plan is a statement of building needs. It articulates the project vision and details the types of spaces needed and the size of those spaces. The functional plan was informed by community input, library best practices, benchmarking, building codes, accessibility standards, the City of Saskatoon's Plan for Growth, and SPL's Strategic Plan.

## COMPLETE

### Thinking Big | Concept Design Phase

In the concept design phase, the design team will determine the general approach to the building design, considering its size, scale, and location on the site. A concept design is "the big idea" about what the shape of the building will be. The result of the conceptual design process includes a site plan showing where the building will be located; a preliminary landscape plan; conceptual exterior elevation drawings illustrating the size and shape of the building; a summary of the design approach or philosophy behind the concept design; and a basic overview of the building's structural, mechanical and electrical systems.

## COMPLETE

### Digging Deeper | Schematic Design Phase

In the schematic design phase, the design team will dig deeper into the detail of the building's interior and exterior spaces and the landscaping. In this phase, the design begins to take shape. Key decisions about building materials and mechanics are made. During this phase, floor plans will be developed and the description of room characteristics and requirements will be outlined.

## COMPLETE

### Design Check-In

As the schematic design phase nears completion, there will be a checkpoint to confirm the design achieves the project vision.

## CURRENT

### Finishing Touches | Design Detail Phase

In the design detail phase, all of the technical requirements and design decisions are finalized. The design team will take all of the input that they have received and will prepare all of the design drawings and detailed specifications. During this phase, the finishing touches will be decided with regards to furniture and equipment. The design team will produce detailed floorplans and exterior renderings of the building that show the building's finishes and detailed landscape design.

## UPCOMING 2022

### Final Design Reveal

The final design of the new central is revealed to the community!

# PHASE 3: DESIGN DETAIL

Between Jan 26–Feb 11, 2022, we engaged the community in conversations for the detail design phase of the new central library.

During these consultations, we received feedback about the design so far and asked what kind of tools and technology people would like to have access to in the Innovation Lab. We also asked residents how they want to use the outdoor plaza and what we should keep in mind when selecting furniture for the new central library.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, all consultations were completed virtually.

## Here's how we gathered input

We provided Saskatoon residents with many different ways to provide their thoughts and feedback, as follows. All feedback mechanisms were hosted on splconnect.ca.

### Virtual Conversations with the Project Team

Residents were able to meet the design team via Zoom while taking part in guided workshops and conversations.

### Online Survey

An online survey enabled residents to provide feedback.

### Resident Advisory Committees

Thirteen advisory committees have been established, each of which provide input on specific areas that will be critical to the new central library.

## How will we use your input?

All of the feedback and input we received was shared with the design team and will be used to inform the schematic design of the new library. The design team received all the detailed comments and complete survey responses.

# THEMES

In the final phase of community consultation, we asked for feedback on the design to date and for thoughts surrounding finishing details that could be incorporated into the design.

The following pages include themes and summaries of the feedback we received.

## What do you like about the concept design?

- Beautiful exterior, fresh and modern look that is reminiscent of a teepee.
- Commitment to accessibility and environmentally sustainably.
- Honouring Indigenous perspectives and culture throughout.
- Abundance of natural light.
- Lots of wood and other local materials being used in the construction.
- Diverse spaces that flow from animated to quieter areas as you move upwards.
- Lots of places to sit and relax.
- Welcoming layout that encourages you to explore entire building.
- The wide variety of Innovation Labs and workstations.

*“Looks like there will be lots of natural light. Love the accessibility features and children’s library design.”*

*“It is beautiful! I love the clean simple lines.”*

*“A new layout that may encourage me to check out areas of the library I don’t usually visit.”*

*“The Indigenous components to the library are nice to see, and will be great for visibly promoting and educating about Indigenous cultures.”*

*“It seems very light and open. I like that as the old library is very closed off.”*

*“What stands out to me are the program areas and the learning kitchen on the main floor. I like the idea of people learning how to cook in the library.”*

## In addition to the audio and video recording studios, what kind of tools and technology would you like to access in the Innovation Lab?

- Sewing machines
- Tools to digitize VHS, slides and negatives
- Tools to digitize CDs and cassette tapes
- 3D printer
- Cricut
- Crafting/scrapbooking tools
- Small electronics construction/repair tools
- Large-scale scanner
- Large-scale printer
- Musical instruments
- Book-binding
- Small tools workspace
- Beading supplies
- Jewelry-making supplies
- Pottery supplies
- Digital instruments

## When you think about furniture, what should we consider when purchasing tables, chairs, study carrels, etc.?

- Chairs need to be comfortable and easy to get in/out of for people of all sizes and abilities.
- Seating flexibility and choice, so people can sit/read/work in different ways.
- Furniture that can be adjusted by the user to meet their needs – including adjustable tables and chairs that can be rolled away to accommodate wheelchairs.
- Ample power plugs and USB charging ports.
- Ensure furniture is durable and easy to clean.
- Colourful/bold furniture that stands out.
- Consider sustainability and furniture made of natural materials.
- Tables where snacks can be eaten in the children’s library.

### *“Combination of comfort and seating flexibility.”*

*“It would be great to have acoustically isolated areas where tutors can work with their students.”*

*“Keep it simple, functional and sturdy.”*  
*“Colour is so important, especially during the long white winters.”*

*“Something easily cleanable and well-wearing so that it doesn’t look and feel worn out and dirty after a few years of use.”*

*“I would like to see some tables without chairs for (people who are) disabled.”*

## The new central library will have a large outdoor plaza. Please describe how you would like to use that space.

- As a meeting place and outdoor reading/study area during warmer months.
- As a venue for smaller outdoor performances and events.
- Play games and do other outdoor activities all year round.
- A place to gather in the shade during hot summer days.
- Picnics.
- Access to water fountain/water bottle filling station.
- A bike repair station.

### *“As a meeting place, outdoor reading space, and open safe area for different groups of people.”*

*“To meet friends for coffee, for kids to play, for events.”*

*“Lots of trees would be great, and plenty of seating.”*

*“Place to sit and read and also attend small events (performances, demonstrations).”*

*“A vegetable garden, like Carlyle King, or an Indigenous Medicine Garden would be nice. Seating with shade is a must.”*

*“It should have the qualities of a small neighbourhood park as this is missing from the centre of downtown.”*

## Is there anything else you would like us to know before we finalize the new central library design?

- Visibility and open lines of sight are very important for security purposes. Security is important to creating a safe and welcoming environment for all.
- Clear wayfinding/signage will be critical so people can find what they're looking for.
- Ensure the new storyroom maintains its magical, whimsical feel.
- Consider embedding artistic works into the building itself.
- The Innovation Labs and workstations should be accessible to people of all abilities.
- Include WiFi access and charging outlets outside the library.
- There should be spaces set aside for nursing mothers.

***“(Give) careful consideration to pedestrian, cycling, bus and other active transportation connections.”***

*“Think of the future and flexibility/reconfiguration.”*

*“I’m so excited and pleased by what I’ve seen so far! Thank you to our wonderful library and all its staff and volunteers!”*

*“I hope you have thought about security in a welcoming way.”*

*“I appreciate the focus on incorporating Indigenous elements in the design, accommodations for anyone with accessibility issues, and the general focus on being a welcoming space for all.”*

# RESIDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEES

To help ensure the new central library achieves its vision to be a welcoming and accessible place for everyone who calls Saskatoon home, SPL developed 13 advisory committees. The mandate of each committee is to review concepts, ideas and plans, providing feedback to the design team as requested.

Each committee consists of up to 20 members comprised of community leaders, advocates, experts and other residents with lived experience in the committee's focal area. In addition to the many residents who applied to serve on these committees, we would also like to thank the many local organizations who graciously agreed to have an employee representative serve on the committees, as follows:

## Accessibility

- Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan Inc.
- Barrier Free Saskatchewan
- Inclusion Saskatchewan
- SaskAbilities
- Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission
- Spinal Cord Injury Saskatchewan Inc.

## Business

- Broadway Business Improvement District
- Chamber of Commerce
- Downtown Saskatoon Business Improvement District
- Tourism Saskatoon

## Creation & Innovation

- Canada Learning Code
- Chokecherry Studios
- Saskatchewan Writers' Guild
- Saskatoon Community Youth Arts Programming Inc. (SCYAP)
- SUM Theatre
- The Sound Lounge
- Word on the Street

## Employment & Education

- Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools
- Quint Development Corporation
- READ Saskatoon
- Saskatchewan Polytechnic
- Saskatoon Public Schools
- Spinal Cord Injury Saskatchewan Inc.
- University of Saskatchewan

## Inclusion

- Global Gathering Place
- Fédération des Francophones de Saskatoon
- OUT Saskatoon
- Saskatchewan Intercultural Association
- Saskatoon Open Door Society

## Local History

- City of Saskatoon Archives
- Genealogical Society
- Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Centre
- Saskatoon Heritage Society
- U of S Archives & Special Collections
- Western Development Museum

## Poverty & Homelessness

- Saskatoon Food Bank & Learning Centre
- Saskatoon Housing Initiatives Partnership
- Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Partnership
- STR8 UP
- The Bridge
- United Way of Saskatoon and Area

## Public Health & Safety

- Population Health
- Prairie Harm Reduction
- Saskatoon Police Services - Community Support
- Saskatoon Community Clinic
- Student Wellness Initiative Towards Community Health

## Program & Service Partnership

- CHEP Good Food Inc.
- Frontier College
- Law Society of SK
- Nutrien Wonderhub
- Parks Canada
- Saskatchewan Environmental Society
- Saskatchewan History & Folklore Society
- Saskatchewan Family Justice Service

**The following advisory committees are comprised solely of individuals with no direct links to organizations:**

- Children & Caregivers
- Teen
- Older Adults
- Knowledge Keepers

# CONTACT US

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