



**City of Richmond
Department of Planning
and Development Review**

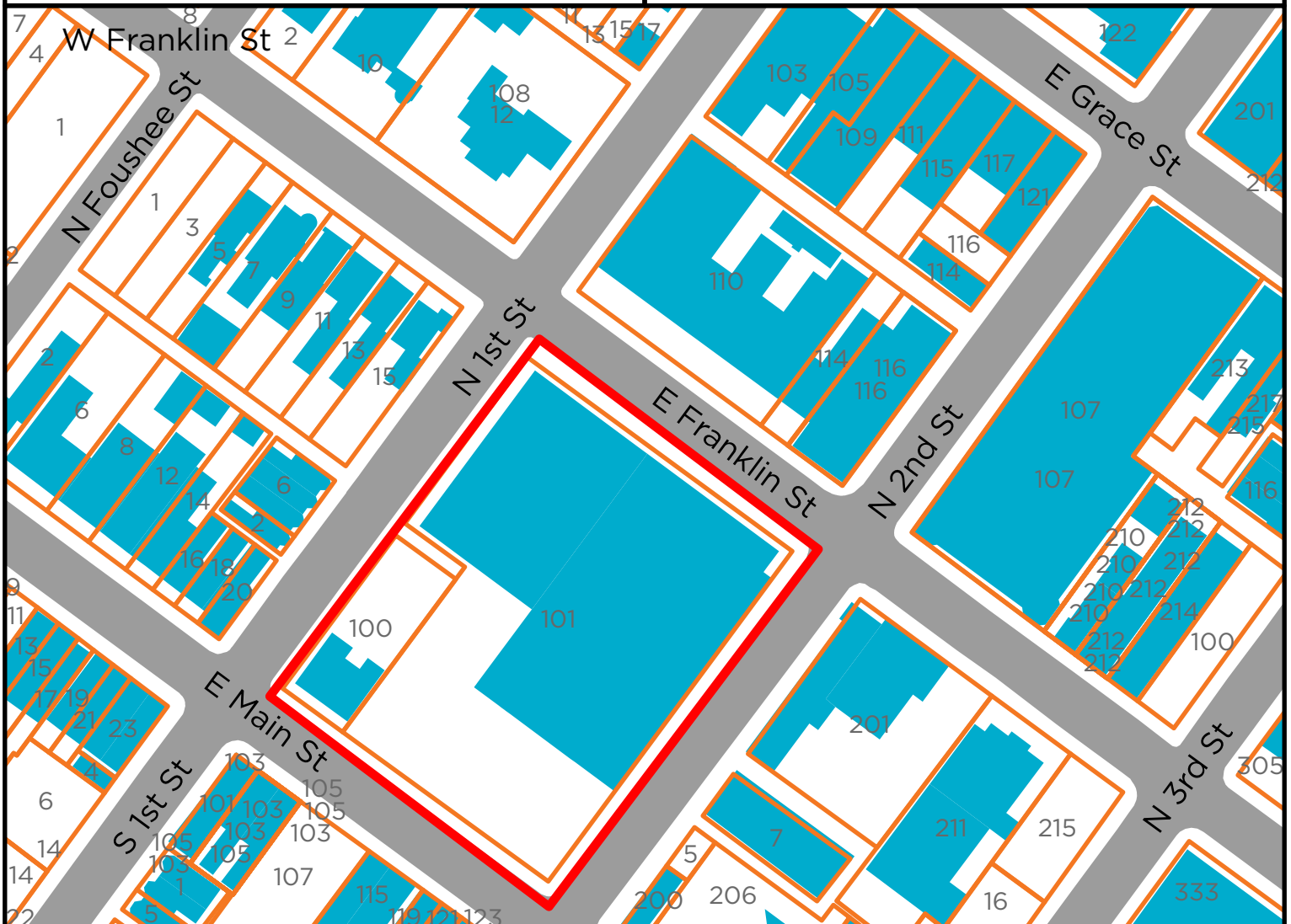
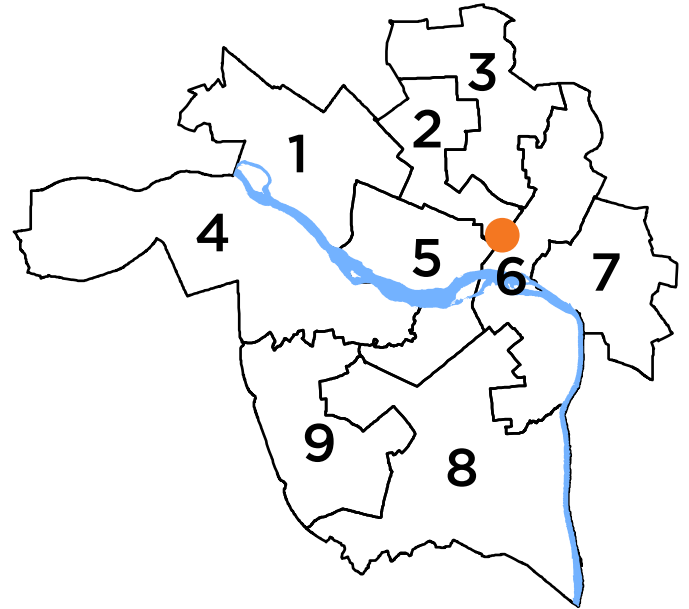
Urban Design Committee
Location, Character, and Extent

Address: 101 E. Franklin St.

Council District: 6

Description: Conceptual location, character, and extent review of renovations to the existing Richmond Public Library - Downtown Branch.

For questions, please contact Alex Dandridge at (804)-646-6569 or alex.dandridge@rva.gov





Application for Urban Design Committee Review

Department of Planning and Development Review

Planning & Preservation Division

900 E. Broad Street, Room 510

Richmond, Virginia 23219 | (804) 646-6335

<https://www.rva.gov/planning-development-review/urban-design-committee>



Application Type (select one)

Location, Character, & Extent
Section 17.05
Other:

Encroachment
Design Overlay District

Review Type (select one)

Conceptual
Final

Project Information

Submission Date: _____

Project Name: _____

Project Address: _____

Brief Project Description (this is not a replacement for the required detailed narrative):

Applicant Information (a City representative must be the applicant, with an exception for encroachments)

Name: _____ Email: _____

City Agency: _____ Phone: _____

Main Contact (if different from Applicant): _____

Company: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Submittal Deadlines

All applications and support materials must be filed no later than 21 days prior to the scheduled meeting of the Urban Design Committee (UDC). Please see the schedule on page 3 as actual deadlines are adjusted due to City holidays. **Late or incomplete submissions will be deferred to the next meeting.**

Filing

Applications can be mailed or delivered to the attention of "Urban Design Committee" at the address listed at the top of this page. **It is important that the applicant discuss the proposal with appropriate City agencies, Zoning Administration staff, and area civic associations and residents prior to filing the application with the UDC.**

Submittal Deadlines

The UDC is an 11 member committee created by City Council in 1968 whose purpose is to advise the City Planning Commission (CPC) on the design of projects on City property or right-of-way. The UDC provides advice of an aesthetic nature in connection with the performance of the duties of the Commission under Sections 17.05, 17.06, and 17.07 of the City Charter. The UDC also advises the Department of Public Works in regards to private encroachments in the public right-of-way.



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Submission Requirements

- An electronic copy (PDF preferred) of all application materials, which can be emailed, or delivered by FTP or USB.
- Three (3) copies of the application cover sheet and all support materials (see below).
- Plan sheets should be 11" x 17", folded to 8 1/2" x 11". If it is not possible to scale plans to these dimensions, please provide one set of larger, scaled plans.
- All applications must include the attached cover sheet and the following support materials, as applicable to the project, based on Review Type:

Conceptual Review:

- A detailed project narrative which includes the following: purpose of the project, project background, project budget and funding sources, description of construction program and estimated construction start date (description should also provide information on the surrounding area to provide context).
- A site plan for the project indicating site characteristics which include: building footprints, parking areas, pedestrian routes, recreation areas, open areas, and areas of future expansion.
- A set of floor plans and elevations, as detailed as possible.
- A landscaping plan which shows the general location and character of plant materials and notes any existing tree to be removed.

Final Review:

- A detailed project narrative which includes the following: purpose of the project, project background, project budget and funding sources, description of construction program, and estimated construction start date (description should also provide information on the surrounding area to provide context).
- A site plan for the project indicating site characteristics which include: building footprints, parking areas, pedestrian routes, recreation areas, open areas, and areas of future expansion.
- A set of floor plans and elevations, as detailed as possible.
- A landscaping plan that includes a complete plant schedule, the precise location of all plant materials, and a landscape maintenance analysis. The plant schedule must show number, size and type of each planting proposed. If existing trees are to be removed, their size, type, and location must be noted on the landscape plan.
- The location of all lighting units should be noted on a site plan, including wall-mounted, site, and parking lot lighting. Other site details such as benches, trash containers, and special paving materials should also be located. Include specification sheets for each item.
- Samples of all proposed exterior building materials, including but not limited to brick, mortar, shingles, siding, glass, paint, and stain colors. When an actual sample cannot be provided, a product information sheet that shows the item or a photo of an existing item may be substituted.

Review and Processing

- Once an application is received, it is reviewed by Staff, who compiles a report that is sent to the UDC.
- A copy of the report and the meeting agenda will be sent to the applicant prior to the meeting.
- At the UDC meeting, the applicant or a representative should be present or the application may be deferred to the next regularly scheduled meeting. It is also strongly suggested that a representative of the City Agency which will have final responsibility for the item be present at the meeting (if the applicant and the representative are not the same).
- Once the UDC recommends action on the application, it is automatically placed on the agenda for the next City Planning Commission (CPC) meeting. Exceptions to this are encroachment applications, recommendations for which are forwarded to the Department of Public Works.
- At the CPC meeting, the applicant or a representative should be present, or the application may be deferred to the next regularly scheduled meeting.



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Regular meetings are scheduled on the Thursday after the first Monday of each month at **10:00 a.m. in the 5th floor conference room of City Hall, 900 E. Broad Street**. Special meetings are scheduled as needed.

Meeting Schedule 2021

UDC Meetings	UDC Submission Deadlines	Anticipated Date of Planning Commission Following the UDC Meeting
December 10, 2020	November 12, 2020	December 21, 2020
January 7, 2021	December 17, 2020	January 19, 2021 ¹
February 4, 2021	January 14, 2021	February 16, 2021 ²
March 4, 2021	February 11, 2021	March 15, 2021
April 8, 2021	March 11, 2021	April 19, 2021
May 6, 2021	April 15, 2021	May 17, 2021
June 10, 2021	May 13, 2021	June 21, 2021
July 8, 2021	June 17, 2021	July 19, 2021
August 5, 2021	July 15, 2021	August 16, 2021 ³
September 9, 2021	August 12, 2021	September 20, 2021
October 7, 2021	September 16, 2021	October 18, 2021
November 4, 2021	October 14, 2021	November 15, 2021
December 9, 2021	November 10, 2021 ⁴	December 20, 2021 ⁵

¹ Monday January 18, 2021 is a City of Richmond Holiday

² Monday February 15, 2021 is a City of Richmond Holiday

³ This meeting is subject to cancellation. If so, Planning Commission hearing would be Tuesday September 7, 2021.

⁴ Thursday November 11, 2021 is a City of Richmond Holiday.

⁵ This meeting of the Planning Commission is subject to cancellation.

The Richmond Urban Design Committee is an 11 member advisory committee created by City Council in 1968. Its purpose is to advise the City Planning Commission on the design of City projects. The Urban Design Committee reviews projects for appropriateness in "location, character, and extent" and for consistency with the City's Master Plan and forwards recommendations to the City Planning Commission. The Urban Design Committee also advises the Department of Public Works in regards to private encroachments in the public right-of-way.

For more information, please contact the Planning and Preservation Division staff at (804) 646-6335 or Alex Dandridge at (804) 646-6569 or at alex.dandridge@richmondgov.com.



ARCHITECTURAL MASTER PLAN
FOR RICHMOND PUBLIC MAIN LIBRARY
CITY OF RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

dariushwatercolors.com '22



URBAN DESIGN COUNCIL SUBMISSION

APRIL 15, 2022





Master Plan Concept Section Illustration

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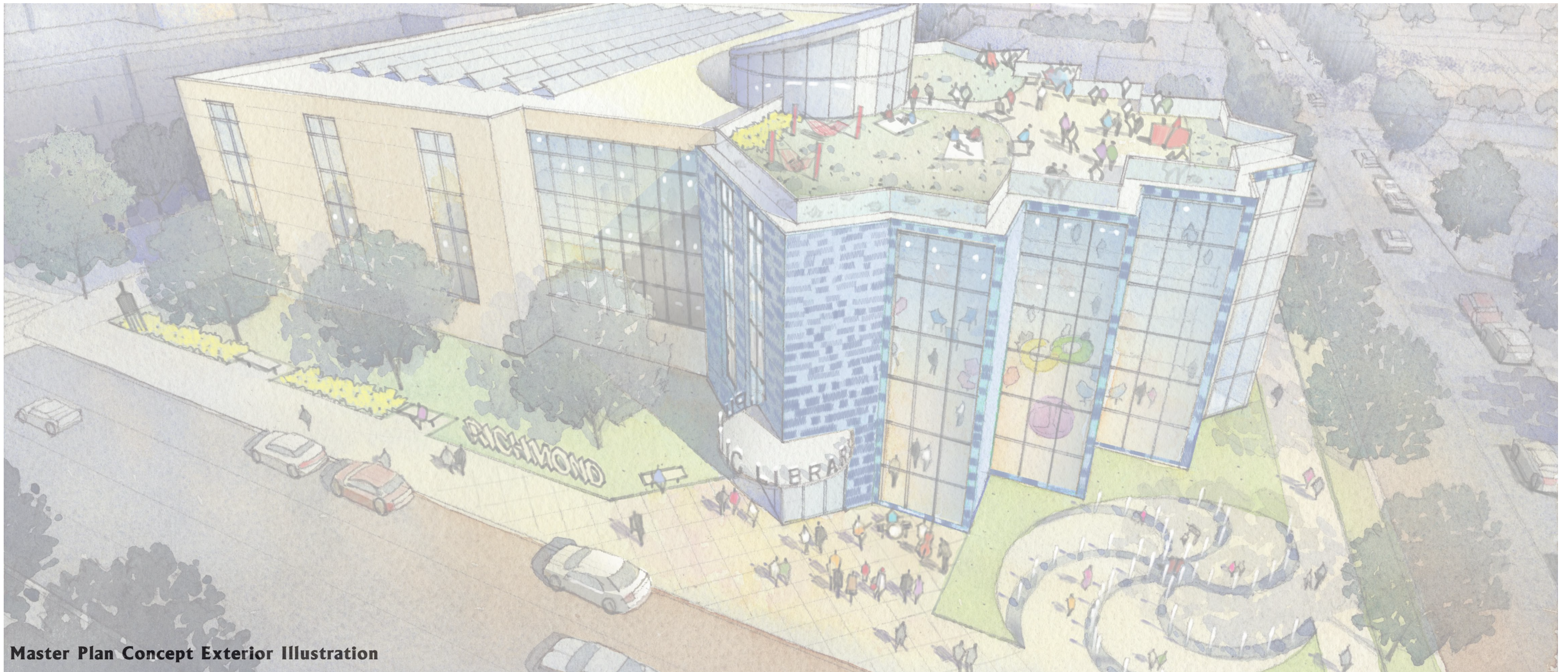
Project Narrative

In February 2021, Steinberg Hart and KEI Architects were selected to create a master plan for the Richmond Public Main Library. The intent was to create a plan that guided the Library for the next 40+ years and to plan a major transformation of the existing facility located in downtown Richmond.

The existing building represents a bygone era. It is outdated and does not meet the needs of the community for a 21st century library that supports its residents. It doesn't function well; has infrastructure deficiencies; and isn't comfortable for the needs of current patrons. An August 2015 study by Commonwealth Architects outlined over 80 exterior safety issues on the site.

The Master Plan charts a way forward with input from the Library Committee and the Richmond community. The downtown community is growing. Parking is one of the most vocalized challenges for bringing people to the library. The Richmond Main Public Library has a tremendous opportunity to make the library an even stronger resource for the community in the future. It will be used by a much broader population and will help tell the story of the Richmond history.

At the conclusion of the Master Plan process, a concept was created to help the community imagine the potential transformation of the library. It represents a bold vision of solving problems; welcoming more patrons; providing a healthy and efficient building to operate; and being a community resource for every member of the population: no matter the age, ethnicity, gender, or income, of the patrons.



Master Plan Concept Exterior Illustration

The Master Plan is just a step in the process to a renewed Main Branch. The intent is to build enthusiasm and support for the project by identifying the potential of what currently exists and what could be. In order to be more welcoming to the community, a prominent entry and community “living room” is envisioned to replace the northern portion of the existing building.

The imposing facade and elevated entryway of the existing structure are peeled away to provide greater visibility

from the street into the interior and allowing all patrons to enter directly from the sidewalk, addressing accessibility and equity for all. A central internal vertical circulation connects the proposed parking at the lowest level up to the rooftop terrace, allowing for spectacular views of the city.

The “living room” acts as a public gathering space and hub of the library leading from entry to the various programs of the library. The main grand stair and elevator at the center provide access to all levels of the library. The high open

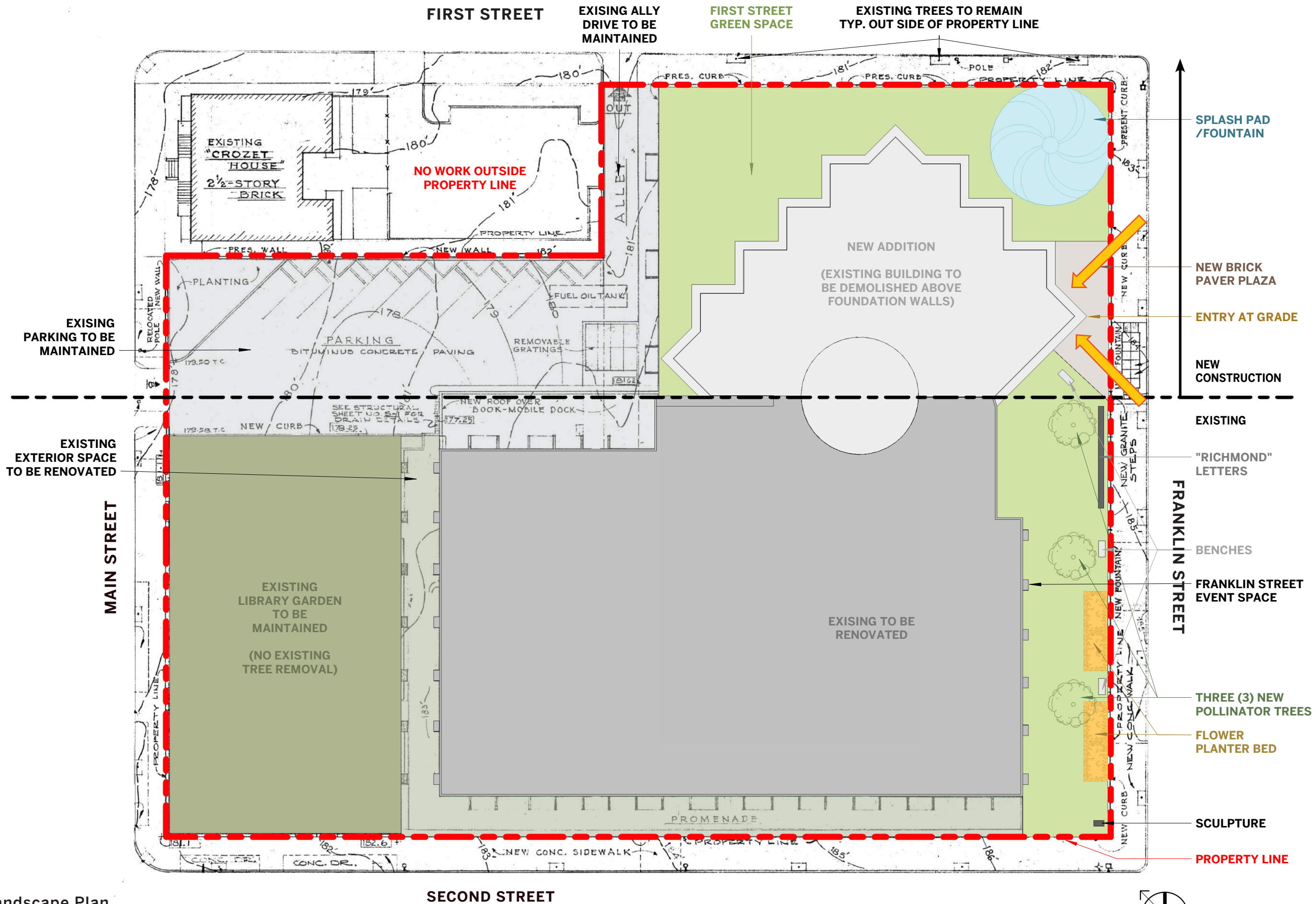
spaces further reinforce the openness and access, creating an inviting library.

At the south portion of the existing building, the open plan is retained to allow for maximum flexibility. Most of the book stacks are located on the main level with various public program spaces on the second level. A Richmond Room is centrally located in this area of the library to display exhibitions. At the lowest level, a surplus of space in the building is repurposed as a parking garage, its entry on Main Street with a book drop off for ease of access.

The site surrounding the building will be improved, with plaza gathering spaces, plantings, trees, sculpture and a splash pad for children.

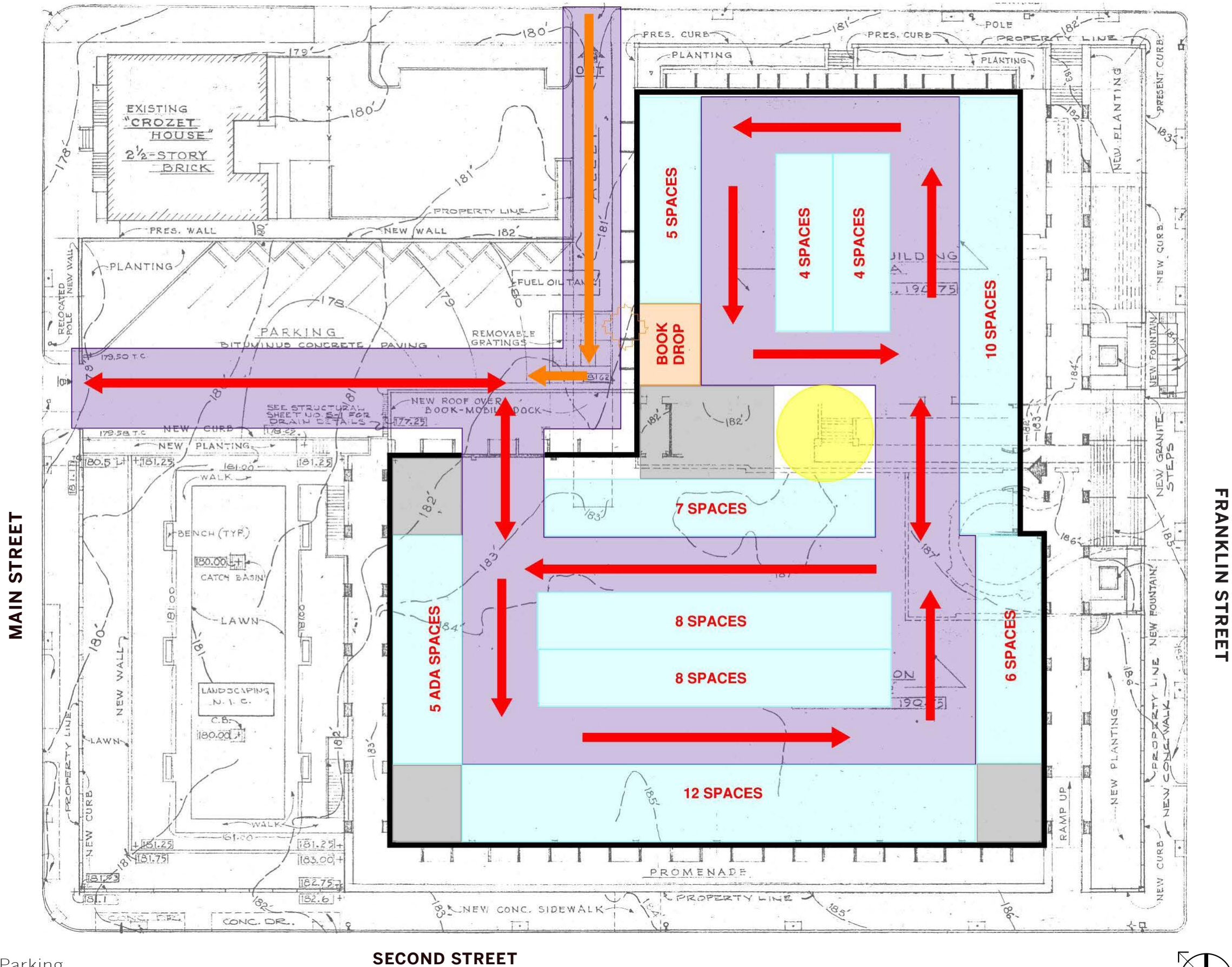
A cost estimate for the concept in the amount of approximately seventy million dollars total project cost (including design, construction, and all soft costs) was generated for budgeting purposes. Funding sources have been identified as city budgets, grants, foundations, and donations.

The next step will use the master plan and community input to begin the design of the newly imagined library.

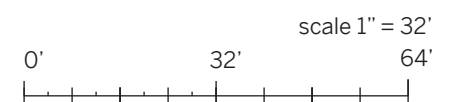


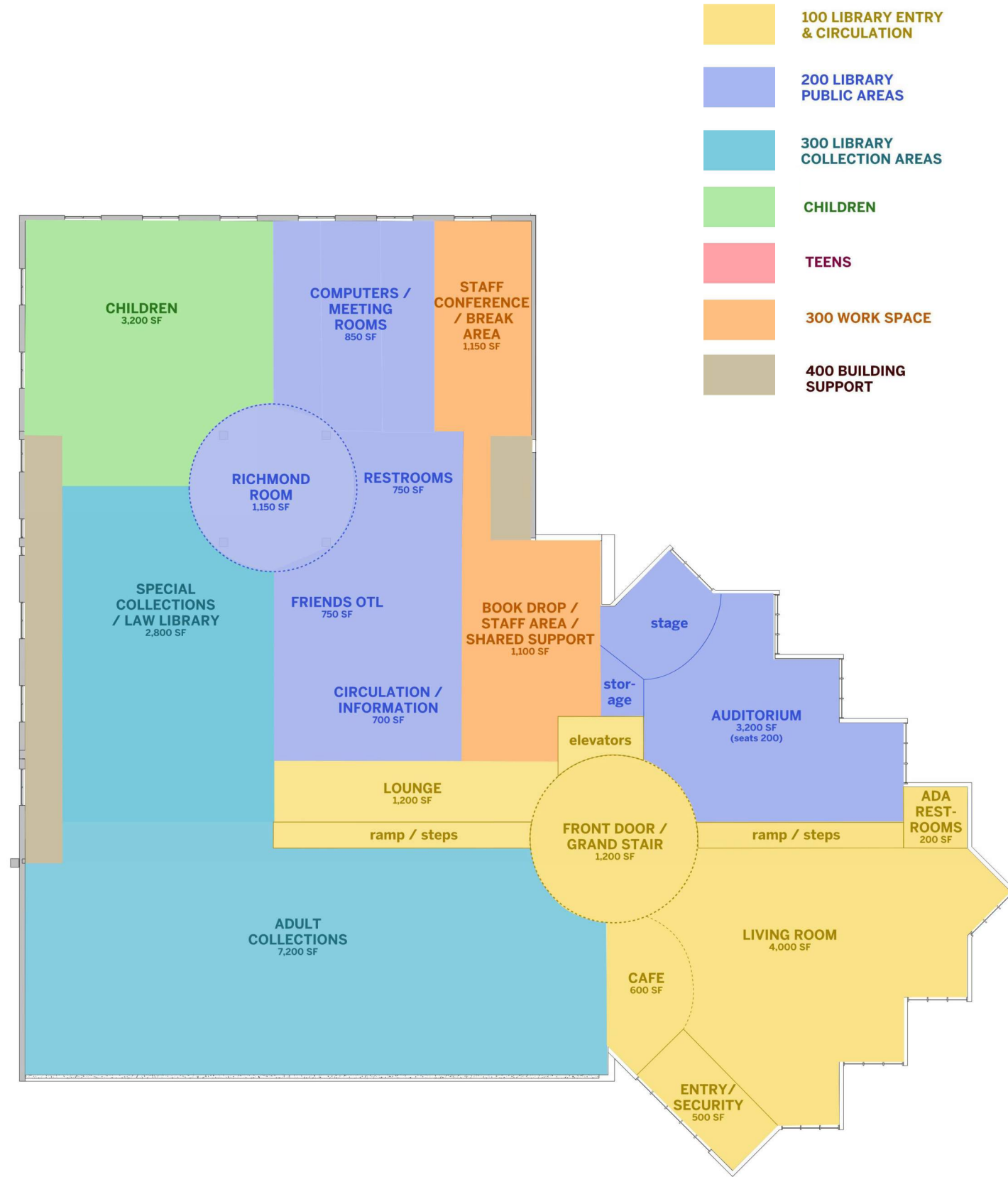
Site and Landscape Plan

FIRST STREET



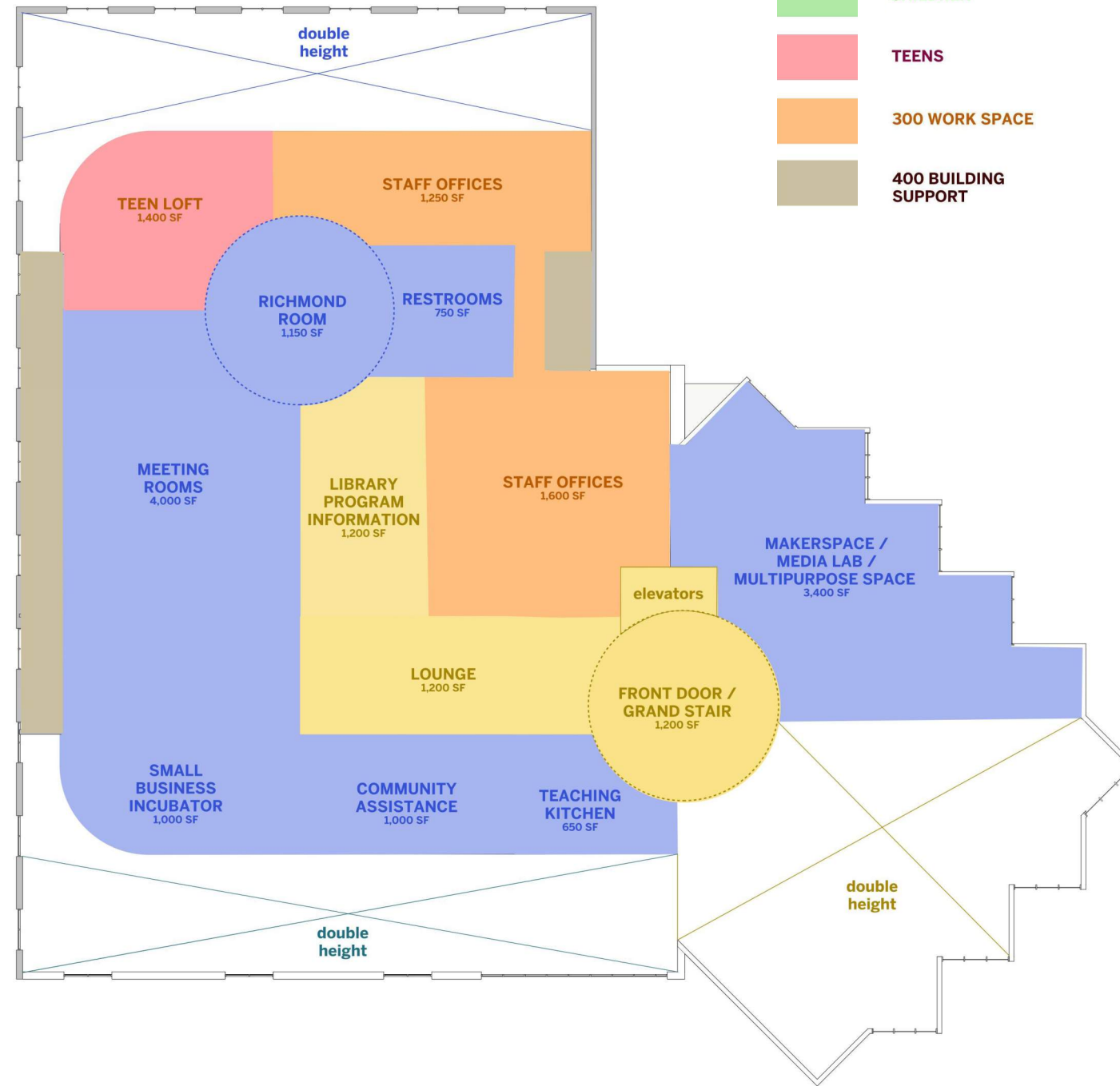
Floor Plan: Lower Level Parking



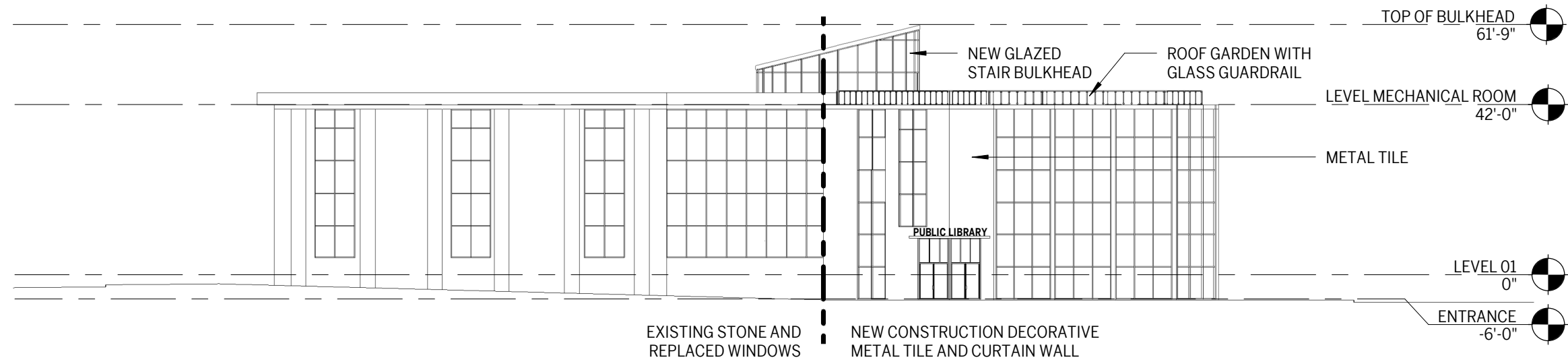


Floor Plan: Level 1

- 100 LIBRARY ENTRY & CIRCULATION
- 200 LIBRARY PUBLIC AREAS
- 300 LIBRARY COLLECTION AREAS
- CHILDREN
- TEENS
- 300 WORK SPACE
- 400 BUILDING SUPPORT



Floor Plan: Level 2



EAST ELEVATION

SCALE: 1/32" = 1'-0"

1

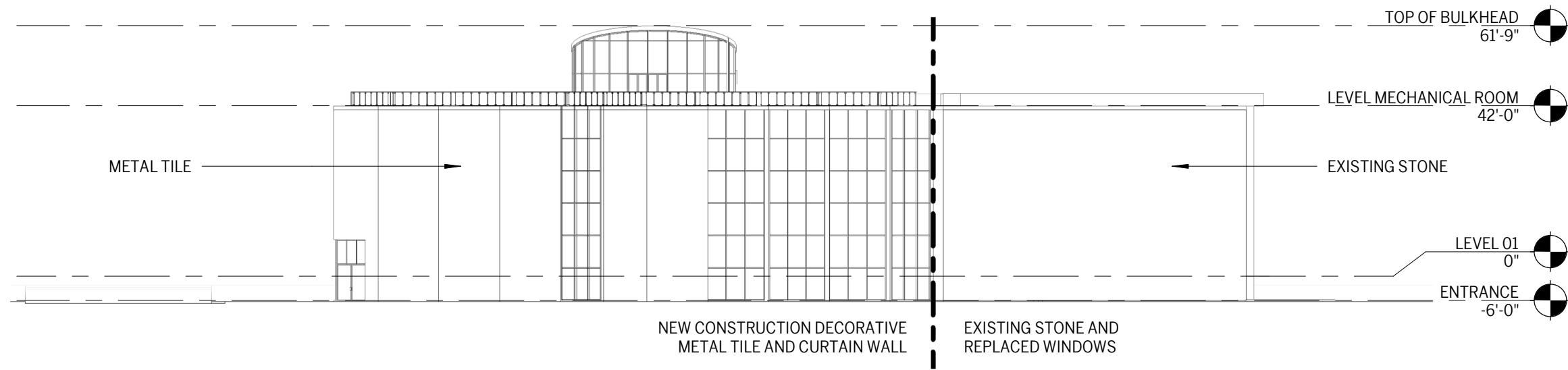


SOUTH ELEVATION

SCALE: 1/32" = 1'-0"

2

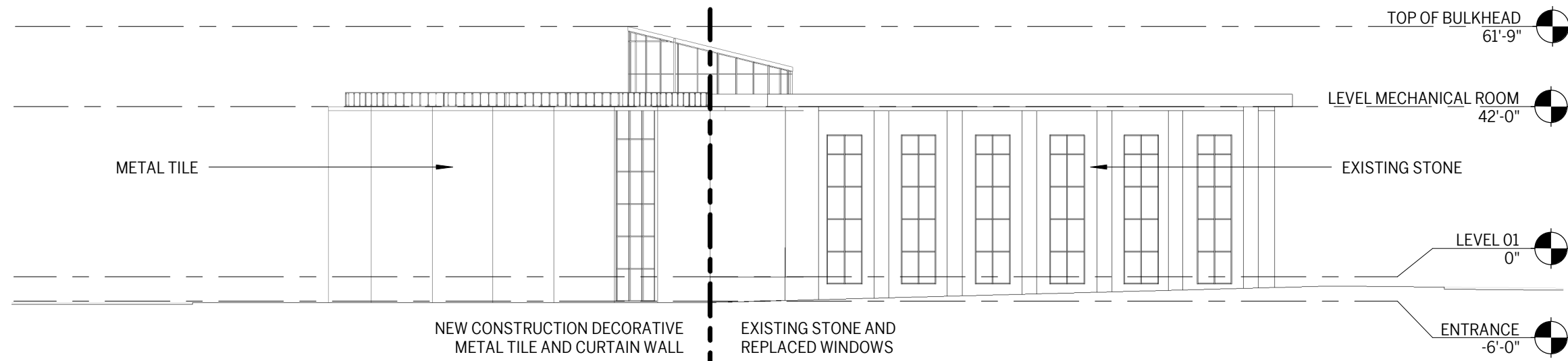
Elevations



NORTH ELEVATION

SCALE: 1/32" = 1'-0"

1

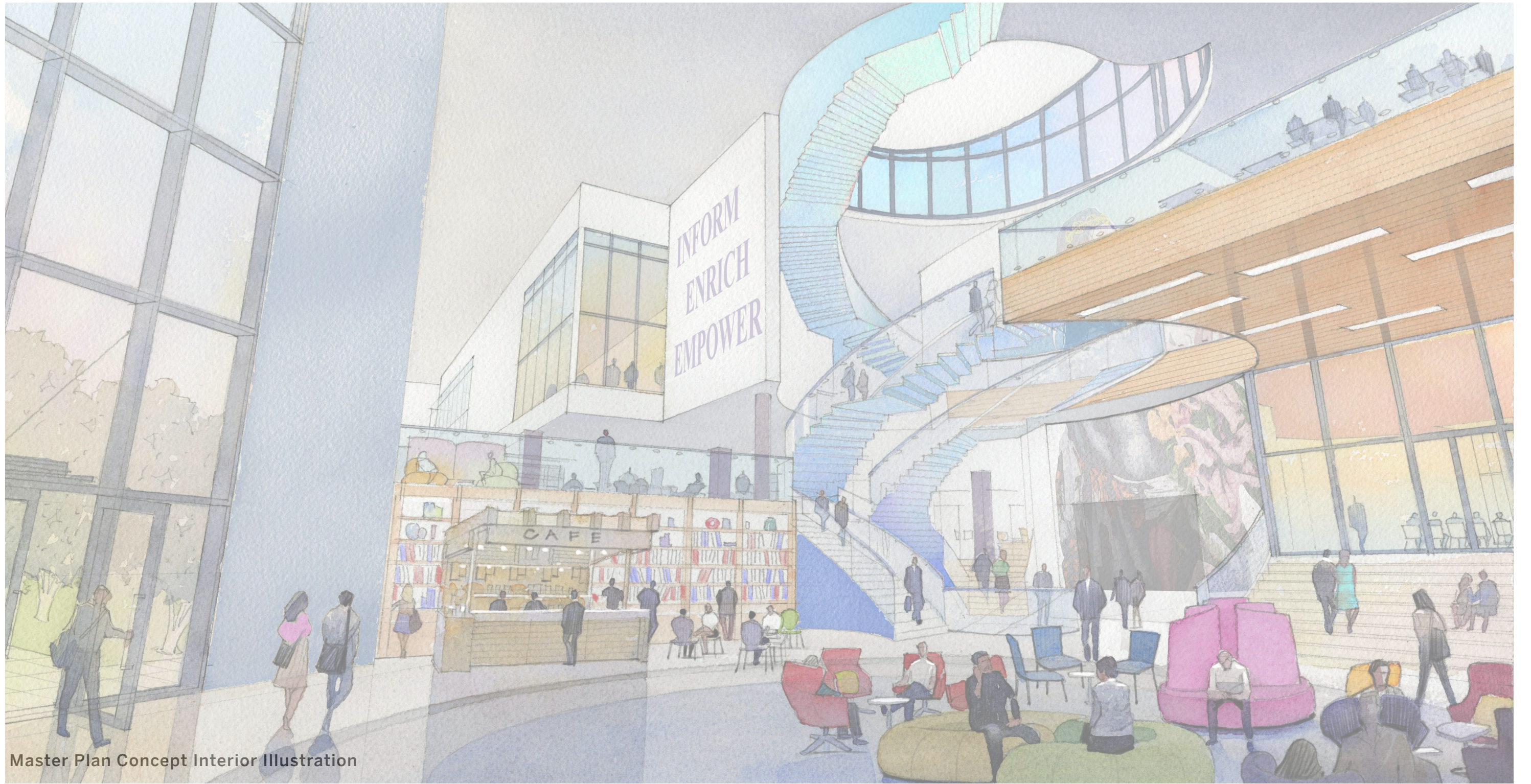


WEST ELEVATION

SCALE: 1/32" = 1'-0"

2

Elevations



Master Plan Concept Interior Illustration



Steinberg Hart | Holzman Moss Bottino Architecture

90 Broad Street, Suite 1803

New York, New York 10004

T: 212.465.0808



KEI Architects

100 W Franklin Street, Suite 400

Richmond, Virginia 23220

T: 804.788.0338