

**Project: Placitas Library Room Addition**

## **June 2019 Public Input Meeting Questions**

1. West facing windows/doors have blinds (maybe also south facing). Maybe an awning?  
*[Response:](#) The windows will have blinds at a minimum. The amount and location of the windows will be balanced with issues related to views, glare, and energy use.*
2. Will the door in rear of "cafe" be open or emergency exit only? Concerned it might be left open accidentally or be a security problem.  
*[Response:](#) The door may be keyed either way. It may also utilize a "classroom" function which would allow it to be primarily used as an emergency exit only.*
3. East wall of breezeway--elevation indicates light from roof. Are there windows on east wall above existing roof that use natural light to light this space?  
*[Response:](#) Natural light will be brought in from skylights on the roof. The east wall of the breezeway is higher than the new roof and does not allow for the addition of clerestory windows.*
4. Can electrical panels shown at NW corner of new meeting room be relocated to north wall of storage rooms (visual)?  
*[Response:](#) The electrical panels have not been located yet. Yes, they will be located in a non-public viewing space.*
5. Exit door and window on west wall of new meeting room not shown on elevation (SHT A-202).  
*[Response:](#) There will be an exit door and window on the west wall of the new Community Room.*
6. Where are existing sheds to be relocated and can these be shown on plan?  
*[Response:](#) Items outside the building will be located once the survey has been completed.*
7. Roof plan indicated (light green color) a translucent cover that is (Over?) breezeway space. What is this roof material?  
*[Response:](#) We would like to use a translucent material (Kalwall) that has good thermal properties and allows natural light to enter the building. The ability to use the material will be weighed against the overall project budget*
8. Noticed windows on back wall of children's room. The exterior elevation shows those windows being low not allowing much shelf space below. If they were a bit higher, there would be more room for shelves.  
*[Response:](#) They will be high enough to allow for shelving to be used below the windows.*
9. Place more windows in meeting room.  
*[Response:](#) The number and location of additional windows is being evaluated.*
10. Plan to insure adequate parking for the 100 anticipated attendees in new meeting room. Car pooling is not an acceptable option.  
*[Response:](#) There is not enough space on the current site for 100 vehicles. The amount available will be assessed once the survey has been completed.*

11. New room still does not have view of Sandia.

*Response: Concur. The view is available from the breezeway, but the team is evaluating the location and size of additional windows.*

12. Cafe presents ongoing cleaning challenges. Expecting volunteers to cleanup is not realistic. The cafe needs much more thought and planning before implementing.

*Response: The “Café” is not intended to be available for public use at all times. The cabinet doors and drawers will be locked. Use of the space as a café will be managed by the library staff. It will be available as a seating area. It won’t be serving or selling drinks.*

13. Once the plans are more detailed for actual building estimate, it will be great to allow additional comment.

*Response: Decisions on the floor plan and elevation are complete, future comments on interior finishes, furniture & fixtures will be solicited.*

**Comments Addressed: To the PCL Board of Directors and the Huitt-Zollars Architects**

It is exciting to see the elevations and see the building begin to take shape. Having consulted with a number of members of the Adult Program Committee, (I was unable to reach them all) we wish to share with the Board and the architects the following observations and concerns.

- Libraries are community gathering spaces and in this library in particular many spaces serve multiple purposes. Therefore, it is important that all spaces are inviting. Abundant natural light is vital to creating such spaces, especially if they are to be variously used. The new community room is not a museum, though it will be used as a gallery to display art. It is not a theater, or lecture hall, though it will be used to present film and programming. From looking at the plans it appears that the current design calls for natural light from only two sets of double doors at opposite ends of a 1000 sq ft room. One of these doors is an interior door and does not have direct access to natural light. This will create a space in which electric light will be required on a large scale at all times the library is open, even when no one is in the room. This is both costly and uninviting. If the BOD and Architects understood from Adult Programs’ previous comments that we wanted a windowless room. Let us correct that at this time. Adult Programs needs a room with plenty of natural light and views, one that can be darkened from time to time, much as the Collin Room can now.

*Response: It is the intention to continue to balance the connection of the building’s interior environment to the exterior. The number and size of windows will be balanced with the functional and energy use of the space. It is not the intent to provide a windowless room. The window design will continue to be developed in tandem with the building mechanical systems and the use of the space. Our first goal was to get consensus on the size and the general massing of the new spaces. With acceptance of the overall massing, we’ll continue to explore integrating more light filled spaces that are of a similar character as the existing library.*

- Placitas is attractive to people in large part because of the natural beauty of the environment. Hallmarks of that beauty are the Sandia Mountains and Cabezon Peak. Properties with views of these are extra special and in high demand. The Library property is one such valuable property. The design of this public building would be greatly enhanced by featuring these views at every opportunity.

- Adult Programs strongly urges the BOD and Architects to put windows with views of the Sandias in both the ‘breezeway’ and the community room. As stated before, Adult Programs would be quite content with an arrangement very like the CMR one in which the windows also serve as the projection screen area. In this way the Art Committee would lose no wall space to the windows. A large room without windows, views and natural light does not meet our requirements. PCL programs are primary users of this space and a major group requiring this increase in space.  
*Response: This will be explored in more detail in tandem with the building’s energy demands.*
  
- Adult Programs strongly urge the BOD and Architects to put a window in the community room which captures the Cabezon view. We realize that there will be some Cabezon view from the kitchen and the exit doors at the far end of the room. A view straight through from the entry—through the archway, the double doors and out a west facing window would serve to draw people into the room where they could enjoy the art. In this way windows could serve both Adult Programs and the Art Committee while taking only a tiny area away from galley wall space.  
*Response: This will be explored in more detail.*

**Huitt-Zollars Responses to the APRIL 22, 23, 30 Public Input on PCL Design**

14. Computer/children’s room with windows on all sides  
*Response: Windows will be added as the space is developed.*
15. Switch director office and storage room/incorporate both into one space  
*Response: Concur, this area will be re-worked and developed further.*
16. Move the door to the director’s office to where the current back exit door is located.  
*Response: Concur, this area will be re-worked and developed further.*
17. Consider placing computers along the east wall of the breezeway so that the planned computer room can be used instead as a meeting room. How many would be able to be placed there?  
*Response: The computers are planned to stay in the current location.*
18. Use the planned computer room as a children’s room.  
*Response: Concur.*
19. Leave the computers where they are  
*Response: Concur.*
20. Plentiful outlets for computer/phone charging stations in all new rooms  
*Response: The amount of receptacles and charging locations can be increased in the new walls which will help minimize the cost impact of adding them.*

21. Consider having glass walls between the computer room and warming kitchen for easier surveillance.  
*Response: Concur.*
22. Eliminate the wall between the breezeway and collection room to provide for more collection space.  
*Response: Additional space is being provided by relocating the children's area.*
23. Is the west lobby wall a load bearing wall?  
*Response: The existing structure was designed to accommodate an 8'-0" wide opening.*
24. Reduce the size of the warming kitchen for more collection space.  
*Response: The collection space will be expanded by relocating the children's collection.*
25. Provide a larger sink in the new warming kitchen than the one in the existing kitchenette.  
*Response: Concur.*
26. Parking spaces in the northwest corner of the building appear to be a security risk/good for loading/unloading.  
*Response: Concur. This area will be used primarily for loading and unloading.*
27. Are solar panels on new roof possible in the future?  
*Response: At this time the County does not plan on expanding the solar system at the Placitas library. The County indicates for maintenance reasons, solar should not be placed on the roof.*
28. Donor Wall  
*Response: The planned location is on the south wall of the breezeway.*
29. Why are storage rooms in the new west meeting room located where they are?  
*Response: The rooms are located at the back of the space away from the primary circulation paths.*
30. Windows for view on new west meeting room.  
*Response: Concur. Windows will be located in coordination of the wall space being made available for artwork.*
31. Recycled jeans or other panels on wheels in new west meeting room.  
*Response: The space is designed to be a large meeting room. There are multiple means to divide the space into smaller spaces. Due to acoustics and assembly costs the best divider of space is a wall. Operable partitions can be added, but they come with a cost and maintenance impact. This can be reviewed further.*
32. Another exterior door in new west room, in case of fire. Is it required by code?  
*Response: The plans currently indicate the required 2 means of egress from the space.*
33. Energy efficient windows.  
*Response: Energy efficient windows will be specified for use on the expansion.*
34. Retain view of Cabazon  
*Response: The view will remain visible from both the breezeway space and windows may be added to maintain the view from the new expansion space.*
35. Will there be wi-fi in new rooms?

*Response: Yes.*

36. What is the rationale for the new warming kitchen location vs. the south end of the breezeway.

*Response: The location allows the kitchen functions to occur away from the main entry and primary circulation spaces.*

37. Is the exterior door from the new warming kitchen required?

*Response: The door allows more immediate access to the storage space on the north side of the building.*

38. More visibility from new west room into covered breezeway.

*Response: Concur. Clear visual access to the space will be increased as the design is developed.*

### **Huitt-Zollars Responses to the Questions Received on May 17, 2019.**

39. As with any space in the library we request a green design incorporating as much energy efficiency and passive solar features, lots of natural light and a view of our signature Sandias in both the breezeway area and the new meeting room.

*Response: Concur. Sustainable design strategies will be incorporated. The amount of windows and views provided will be balanced with the building energy efficiency, the available wall remaining space for art, and the need to darken the room.*

- **Built-in LCD projector/Blue-Ray/DVD projector** with speakers.
  - These need to be simple to operate---many different volunteers and community members will need access to them.
  - These must be accessible during hours when the library is closed.
  - Need to be changeable as technology changes---we do understand that no one can completely prepare for what those changes will be, but as much as possible all technology needs to be updatable.

*Response: We recommend a wireless system purchased directly by the Library. There is plug and play technology available and the building systems will be designed to accommodate the system. The Library is a non-profit and would better leverage their investment by not purchasing through a General Contractor who will simply subcontract out the work. HZI can assist in system selection.*

- **Built-in retractable screen** for projection
  - Our current system of using a curtain which covers our large 'view' window has worked wonderfully and we would be happy with that type of system in the new room as well.
    - This would allow for a large screen but not block or disturb art displays.

*Response: Concur. We agree the arrangement in the existing conference room is a good model to follow.*

- **Built-in sound system** with remote mics
  - This system, too, needs to be easy for many different folks to operate and flexible.
  - Needs to dove-tail with the projections systems for use both with DVDs and laptop/powerpoint type presentations.

*Response: The audio system is tied to the presentation system.*

- **Podium**—moveable
 

*Response: To be acquired through PCL.*
- **Remote powered windows** and blinds if they are high

*Response: Concur.*

- **Polarized windows** to protect art.

*Response: Concur.*

- Ideally, this large room could have an **accordion wall** of some sort so it could be divided in two.

*Response: The County has directed PCL to not further divide the new space based on the availability to use the existing conference room for smaller meetings as well as required HVAC and additional required exit doors, etc needed to further sub-divide the space.*

- **Double doors** for entry and egress seem important with this large a seating capacity.

*Response: The egress meets the required exiting requirements. The size of the egress opening can be increased to match the size of the opening in the existing wall.*

- **Chairs** for 100 that stack easily, store in small area, and are easy to maneuver

- These need to be as comfortable as possible.

*Response: Concur. The actual chairs will be purchased by PCL directly.*

- **Tables**

- Please note the tables we have now. They work very well

- They are easy to move, can be 3 different sizes, and continue to be useful even in their “stored” position.
- These 3 tables need to remain in the CMR. It would be wonderful if we could find similar ones for the new room.

*Response: To be acquired through PCL.*

- **Small kitchen** in or near the new room would be great.

- There is no need for seating in the kitchen area.
- A mid-sized refrigerator—not full sized
- Convection oven for heating and microwave
- Coffee pot
- Sink—larger than the current one
- Cabinets and counter

*Response: The Board has approved the design as it currently stands, per the May\_\_\_\_\_design. The detail of the arrangement will provide for the items listed and will include the seating.*

40. Enlarge the children's area to the dotted line. If there is a strong desire for adult sized table (s) as indicated again in this latest drawing, place them just inside opening to children's area. Possibly explaining what the vision is would help acceptance. Are we going to make coffee available to public?

*Response: The Board has approved the design as it currently stands. There will be the opportunity to open the doors to the Children’s area to allow the space to be utilized for children activities when needed.*

41. I would recommend glass pocket doors wherever doors are felt essential but would prefer to see cased openings used instead, unless doors are critical. Cased openings would save money and as long as it's a standard opening, doors could be added if after use they seem necessary. Regular doors take up functional floor space and impact the flow and aesthetics of the space.

*Response: Concur. In lieu of pocket doors, horizontal sliding doors will be used instead.*

42. Place a window so that Director can view children's area from the office. Consider a window from main stacks area (where current desktop computers live) so that children's area can be seen easily by desk volunteers.

*Response: Supervision will be incorporated either through security cameras and/or windows.*

43. Consider more natural light and view of Sandias in New meeting room.

*Response: Natural light will be incorporated and views will be considered as the design progresses. See answer to #26.*

44. It is hard to understand what the dotted oval represents and what is envisioned in that spaced indicated with two circles. If it is for desktop computers I hope the board will accept the input and data that supports no need for additional desktops but rather utilize the existing library owned laptops.

*Response: The Board will not be adding additional desktop location in the current project. The area is being designed to accommodate the user needs and supervision requirements.*

45. I was looking at the library expansion plan and wondered if we can include a small Cafe in the library. It could be a source of income and a place to socialize.

*Response: The County will not allow PCL to operate a business selling food or drink, but the space can be used as a café for the social benefits. This space will also be available to support the needs of the Children's area.*