

New Westchester Square Library Update Bronx Community Board 10

January 2026



Department of
Design and
Construction

Project ID:LN25WTSNB



New York
Public
Library

Agenda

- Project Background
- Community Survey
- Design-Build Essentials
- Benefits of Design-Build
- Project Milestones

Project History

- City engaged with an architect
- Designs fully developed for a contemporary two-story building
- Project bid and came in well over budget
 - overheated bidding market
 - complex building footprint
 - material choices
- During this time, NYS passed legislation allowing use of “Design-Build” which is known for controlling costs and schedule.
- After careful consideration, agencies agreed this is the best path to move the project forward.

Project Background



- Existing branch located at 2521 Glebe Avenue, a residential side street, since 1958
- New branch will be state of the art and address deficiencies found in existing building
- The project is fully funded

Project Background



Existing building challenges:

- No elevator, so lower level program space and 2nd floor are inaccessible
- Restrooms are not ADA compliant
- Windows are grated and need replacement
- Inefficient heating and cooling systems
- Roof near end of useful life
- Finishes are outdated
- No rear yard access from library
- Share building & egress with another tenant

New Westchester Square Library



- Opportunity to rebuild and improve the branch
- New location:
 - 5 Westchester Square Avenue
(adjacent to Huntington Free Library)
 - Highly visible and easily accessible location
 - .3 miles from existing branch
 - City acquired property in 2023
 - **Existing branch will remain open throughout construction**

New Westchester Square Library

Project will still result in a brand new branch with all the modern amenities

- Fully accessible building; including access to all floors and restrooms
- Separate spaces for Children, Teens & Adults; plus multipurpose room
- Access to light through energy efficient windows
- Modern heating, cooling and lighting systems
- Technology upgrades including WiFi, extensive power and data, and all new computers and laptops
- All new furniture, finishes and collection material

Community Survey Engagement

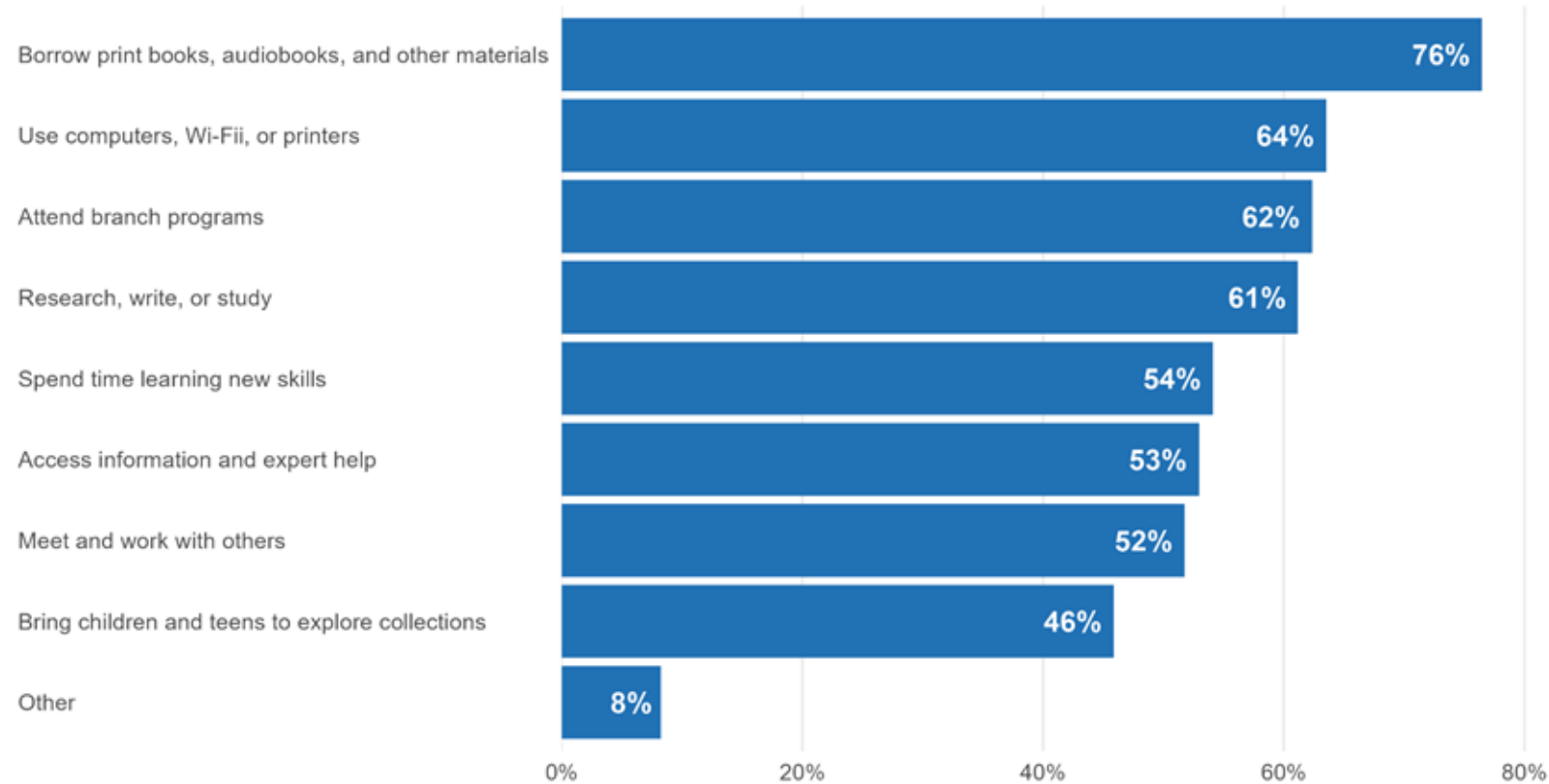
Initial community survey launched in 2015 followed by a second survey in 2025. The second survey ran from August 1st, 2025 and closed on October 31st, 2025. The goal of the survey was to:

- Learn about the services and programs important to the Westchester Square community.
- Use the survey results to inform space use and programming at the *new* Westchester Square library.

Community Survey Highlights

Which of the following would you be most likely to do at the renovated Westchester Square Library?

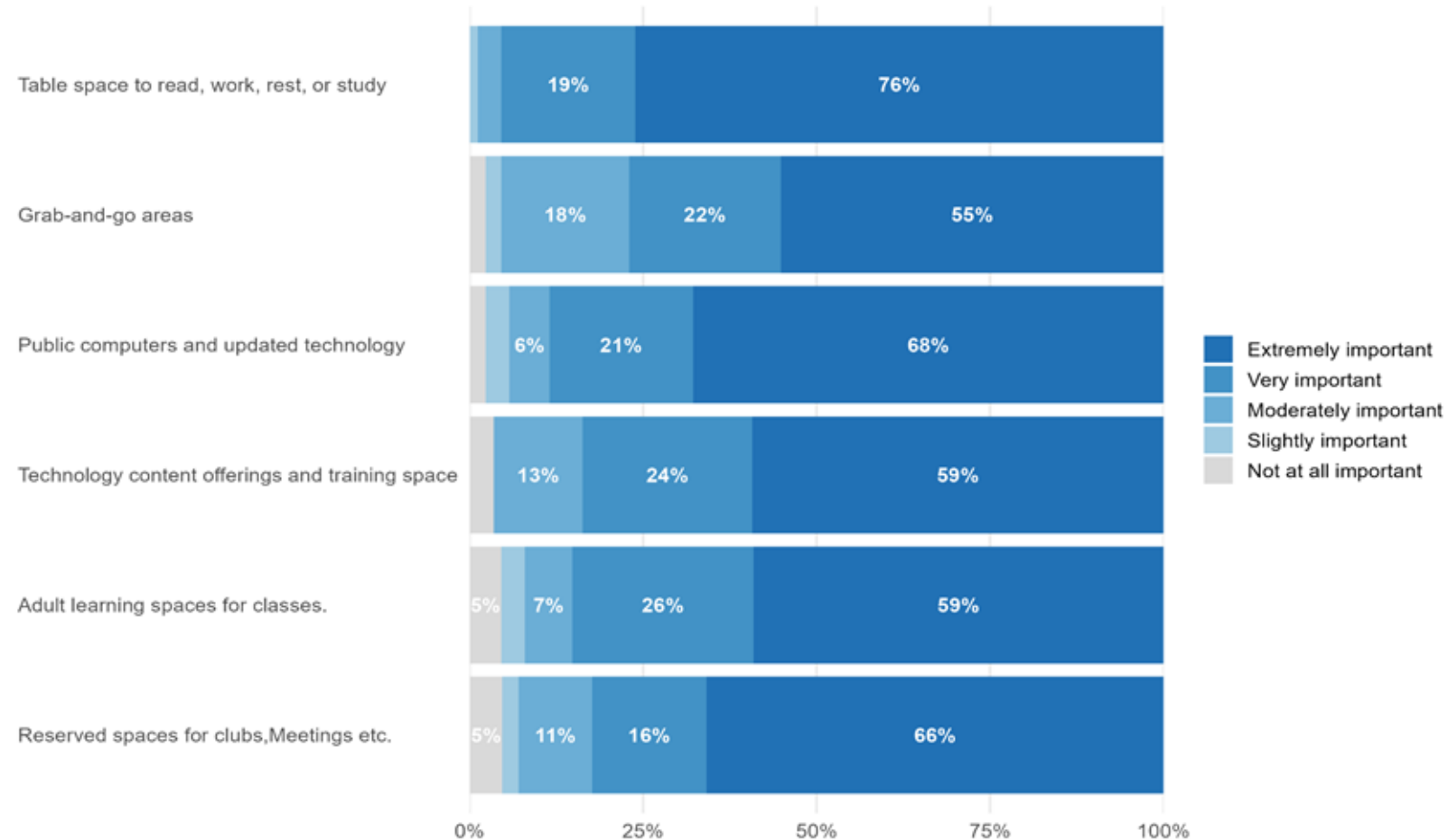
Survey results showing percentage of respondents (Select all that apply)



Community Survey Highlights

ADULT SPACE PRIORITIES

Survey results showing percentage of respondents for each category



Community Survey Highlights

When asked how the library could serve them and their community better, participants also highlighted:

- Extended programming for all ages
- Technology access & training
- Extended Hours & increased accessibility
- Health, wellness & safety
- Quiet, comfortable, and welcoming spaces

Design-Build Essentials

Design-Build Essentials

An approach to construction that reduces delays, creates efficiencies, and promotes innovation.



Collaboration,
communication,
coordination



Uses **best practices**
from across the country
in building a world-class
recreation facility

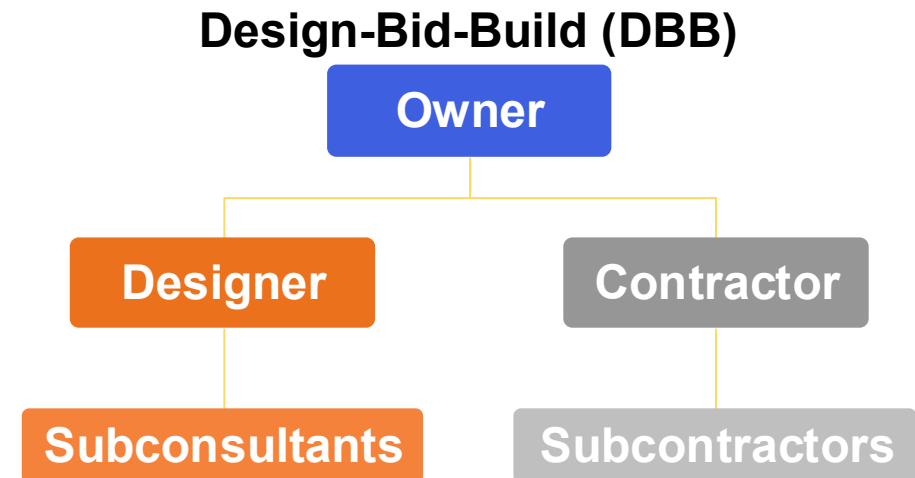
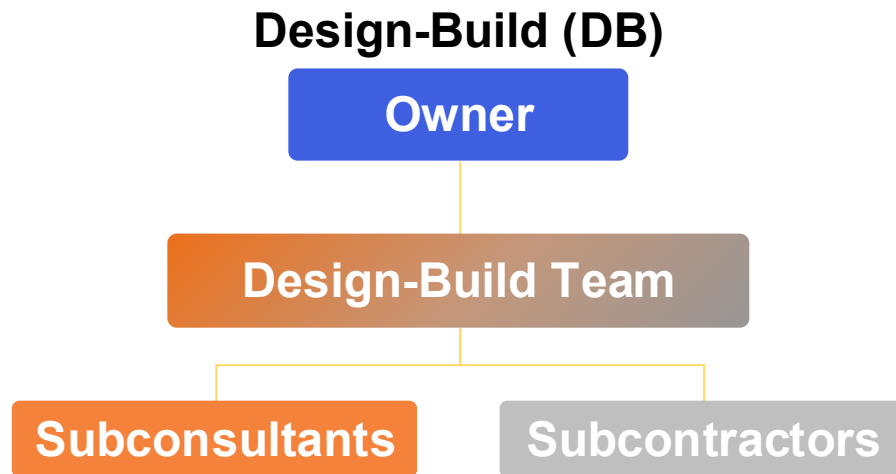


Faster, more
efficient, and more
cost effective

Benefits of Design Build

Benefits of Design-Build

- By encouraging innovation and collaborative problem-solving, Design-Build (DB) **saves both time and money**
- It is the **fastest growing**, most cost and time efficient method used to deliver construction projects in the nation
- When compared to Design-Bid-Build (DBB), DB projects have **lower unit costs, lower cost growth, less schedule growth, faster construction and faster delivery speed**
- Owner manages only one contract with a **single point of responsibility**
- Designer and Contractor work together as a **team**

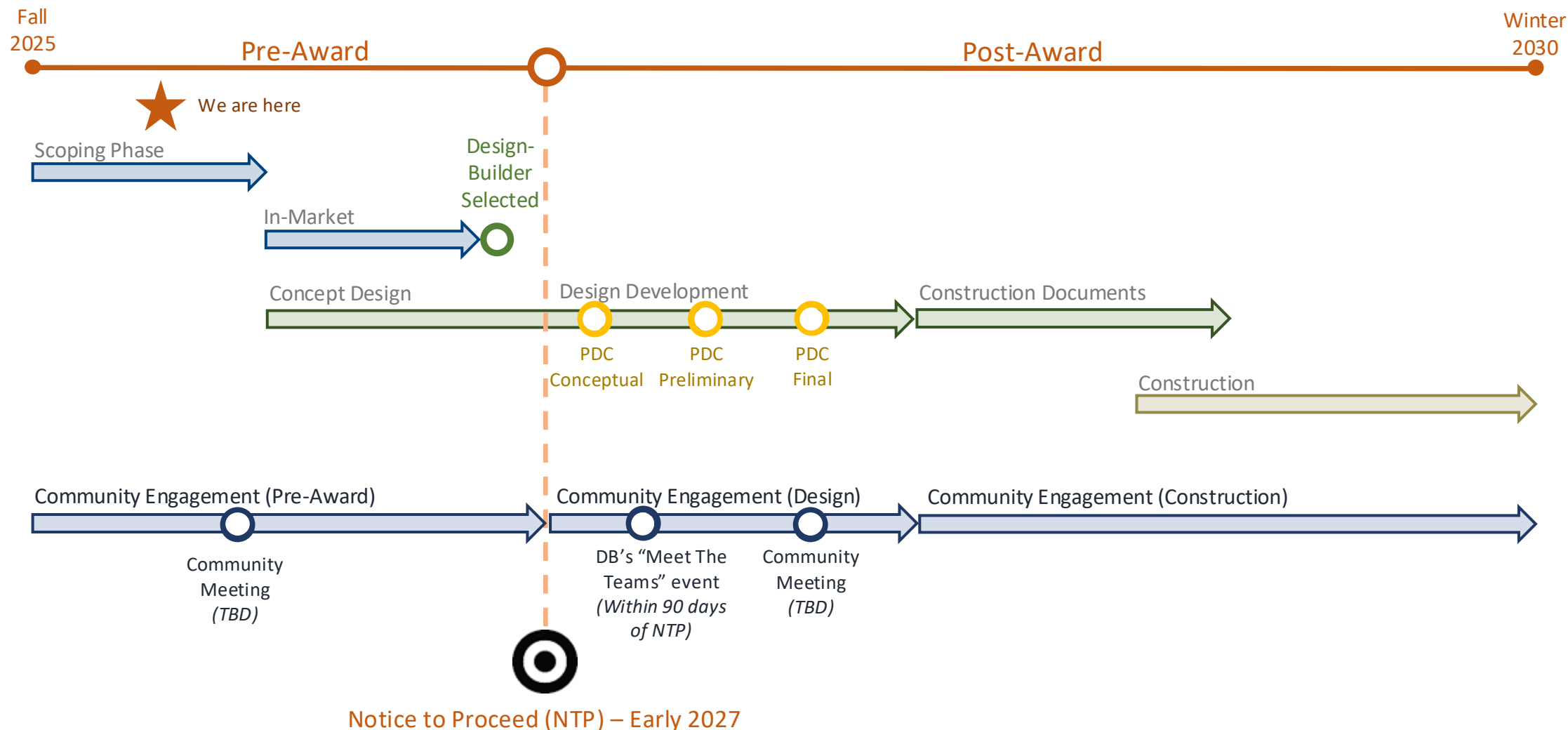


Project Milestones

WSL Community Engagement

Community Board BX10

Overall Schedule



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Q&A

Thank you!