

Investing in the Future of **Leonard Library**

Brooklyn Community Board 1



MAY 12, 2026

Introductions

- **BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY**

- Lauren Comito, Branch Manager
- Alanna Lauter, Project Manager
- Michael Fieni, BPL Community Engagement Team Member

- **NYC DEPARTMENT OF DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION**

- Anna Killion, Outreach Coordinator
- Tirso Tavarez, Assistant Director, Intergovernmental Affairs, Communication and Policy

- **RZAPS | RICARDO ZURITA ARCHITECTURE & PLANNING P.C.**

- Ricardo Zurita, Principal



Investing in the Future of Leonard Library

Agenda

- Leonard Library Phase I Project Overview – *Completed 2025*
- Leonard Library Phase II Project Scope and Details
- Construction Schedule
- Library Services During Closure
- Contact Information
- Questions

Leonard Library Phase I Project Overview

- Installed major infrastructure upgrades, including a modern HVAC system, updated fire safety systems, and improved building management systems.
- Restored and preserved key historic features of the Carnegie building, including the laylight, roof, and other architectural elements.
- Refreshed interior spaces with new lighting, paint, ceiling tiles, and more.
- Completed Summer 2025

Leonard Library Phase I Project Overview



1910s



2025

Leonard Library Phase II Project Details

- **Project Team**

- Architect: RZAPS | Ricardo Zurita Architecture & Planning P.C.
- Construction Management: NYC Department of Design and Construction (DDC)

- **Project Funding: \$5 Million**

- \$2 Million from Council Member Gutierrez
- \$3 Million in Proceeds from the redevelopment of Brooklyn Heights Library

Leonard Library Phase II Project Scope

- Upgrade existing bathrooms for ADA accessibility
- Add an additional accessible bathroom
- Install an elevator for lower level accessibility
- Provide code-compliant egress from the lower level
- New flooring of the main level
- One new interior egress stair
- Two exterior stairs
- New exit doors at rear side of the library

Leonard Library Phase II Project Details

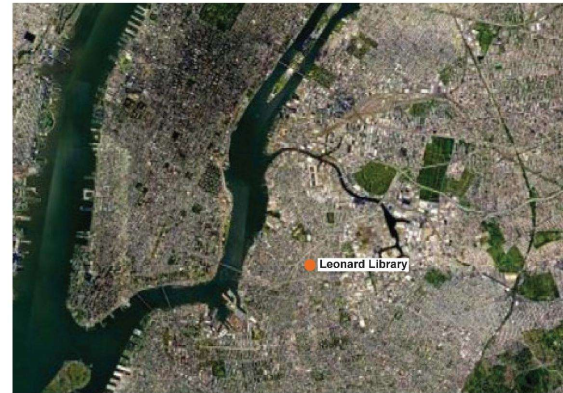
- **Major Design Considerations**



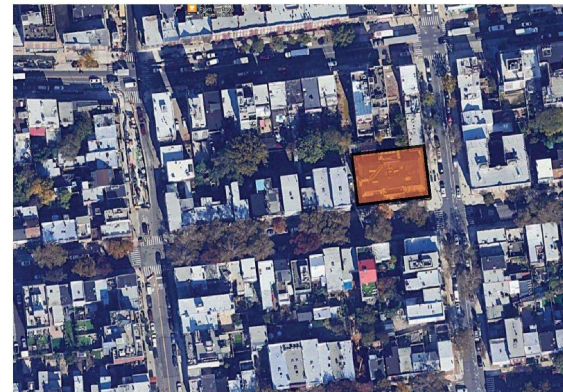
- Prioritize full accessibility, public-facing elevator access, and facility upgrades aligned with current library use.
- Minimize impacts on the historical structure and elements, both interior and exterior, while optimizing capital funding.
- Encourage creative reorganization and modification of spaces if beneficial and within budget.
- Use durable, tamper-resistant, easy-to-maintain materials. Choose equipment and fixtures with easily replaceable parts and simple maintenance requirements.

Site Location and Background

- Leonard Library is in Williamsburg, Brooklyn.
- It's one of Brooklyn Public Library's original Carnegie branches.
- Designed by William B. Tubby, built and opened in 1908.
- One-story building with a lower level.
- Interior has been renovated several times; exterior remains largely unchanged.
- Major rehabilitation project completed in 1965.



SITE LOCATION IN CITY CONTEXT

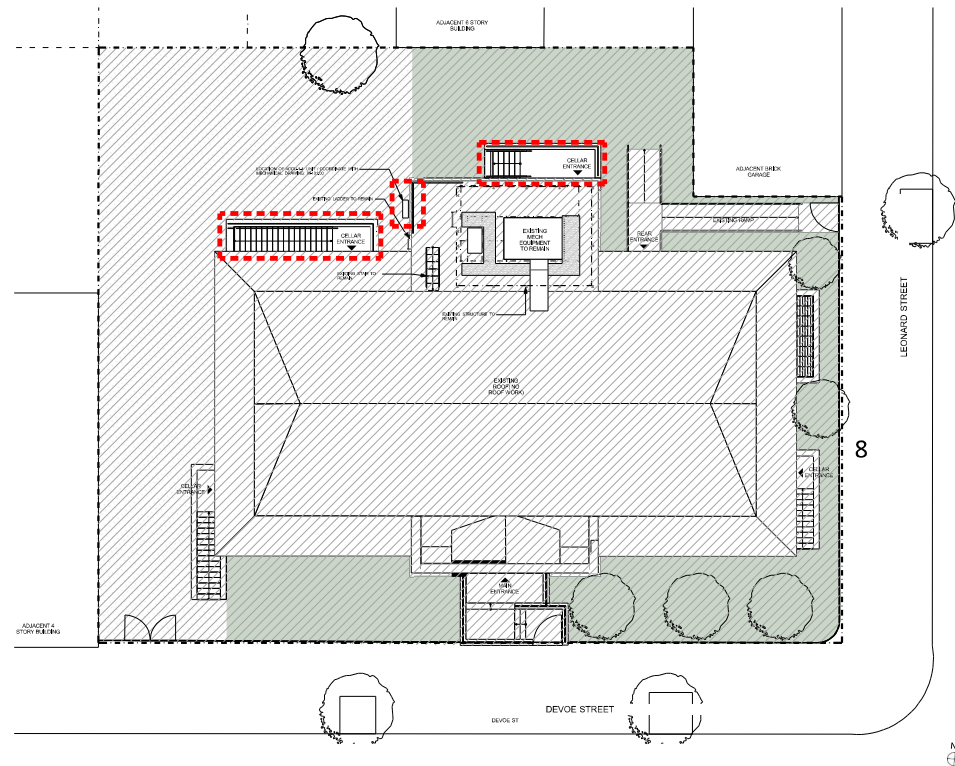
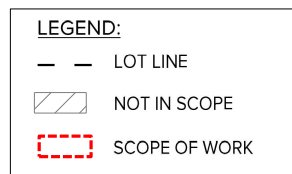


SITE LOCATION IN NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT

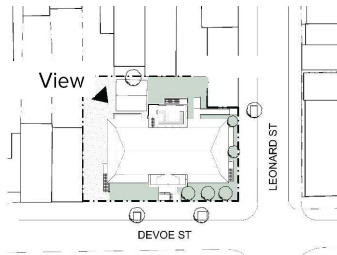
Proposed Site Plan

EXTERIOR SCOPE:

1. REMOVAL OF EXISTING SHED
2. (2) TWO NEW CONCRETE STAIRS, INCL. RETAINING WALLS, RAILINGS AND BUILDING EXIT DOORS



Rear Yard Photo



Main Level Plan Demolition

EXTERIOR SCOPE:

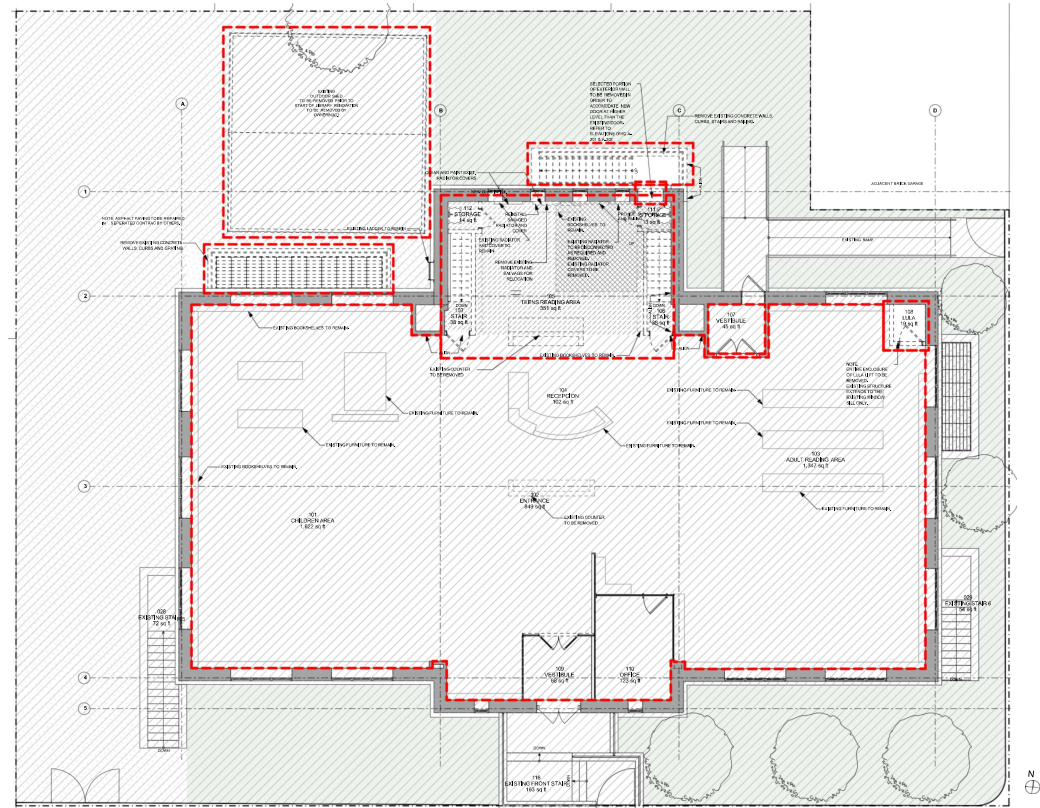
1. REMOVAL OF EXISTING SHED
2. REMOVAL OF EXIST. CONCRETE STAIR, INCL RAILING, RETAINING WALLS
3. REMOVAL OF LIGHT WELL, METAL GRADE AND RETAINING WALLS

INTERIOR SCOPE:

1. REMOVING OF EXISTING INTERIOR STAIRS
2. PARTIAL REMOVAL OF EXISTING HORIZONTAL STRUCTURE
3. REMOVAL OF LULA LIFT
4. REMOVAL OF SELECTED FURNITURE
5. REMOVAL OF FLOORING ON MAIN LEVEL

LEGEND:

— —	LOT LINE		REMOVE EXISTING HORIZONTAL STRUCTURE
- - -	REMOVE EXISTING CONSTRUCTION		REMOVE EXISTING FLOOR FINISH
	EXISTING WALL TO REMAIN		SCOPE OF WORK
	NOT IN SCOPE		



Proposed Main Level Plan

EXTERIOR SCOPE:

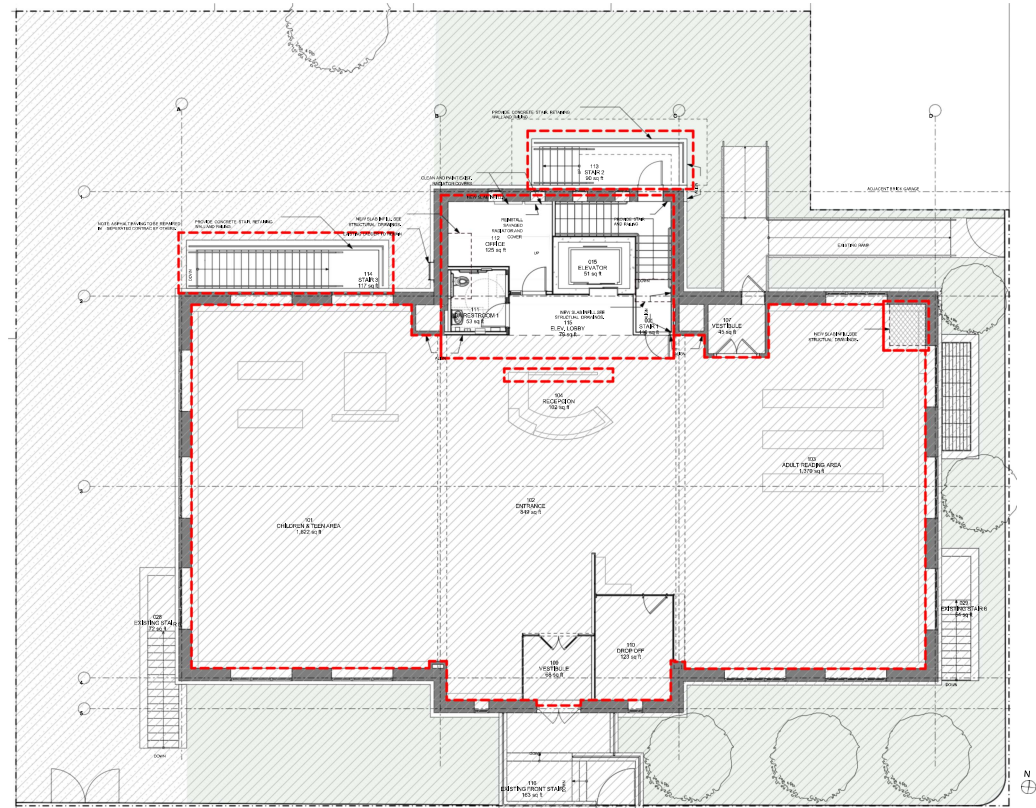
1. (2) TWO NEW CONCRETE STAIRS, INCL. RETAINING WALLS, RAILINGS AND BUILDING EXIT DOORS

INTERIOR SCOPE:

1. NEW INTERIOR STAIR CONNECTING LOWER LEVEL AND MAIN FLOOR AND LEADING TOWARDS NEW EXIT AT THE REAR OF THE BUILDING
2. NEW ELEVATOR
3. NEW ADA RESTROOM
4. SELECTED SLAB INFILLS
5. DESK ALTERATION
6. REPLACEMENT OF FLOORING ON MAIN LEVEL
7. ADDITION OF SECURITY CAMERAS

LEGEND:

— — LOT LINE	 REMOVE EXISTING HORIZONTAL STRUCTURE
- - - REMOVE EXISTING CONSTRUCTION	 REMOVE EXISTING FLOOR FINISH
 EXISTING WALL TO REMAIN	 SCOPE OF WORK
 NOT IN SCOPE	



Lower Level Plan Demolition

EXTERIOR SCOPE:

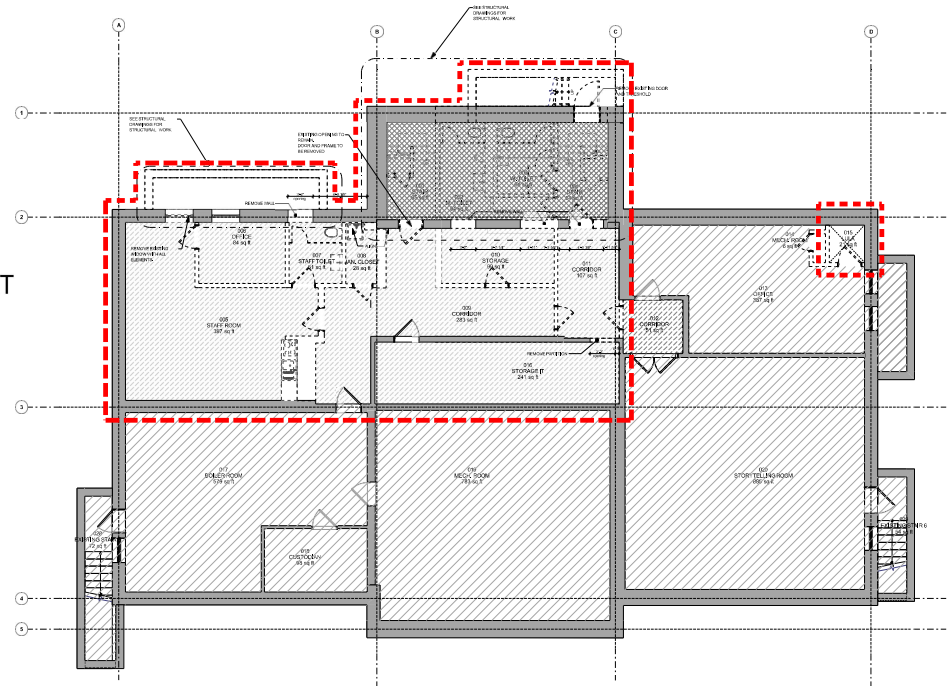
1. REMOVAL OF EXIST. CONCRETE STAIR, INCL RAILING AND RETAINING WALLS
2. REMOVAL OF LIGHT WELL, METAL GRADE AND RETAINING WALLS

INTERIOR SCOPE:

1. REMOVAL OF EXISTING INTERIOR STAIRS
2. SELECTED REMOVAL OF EXISTING HORIZONTAL STRUCTURE AT PROPOSED ELEVATOR
3. REMOVAL OF LULA LIFT
4. REMOVAL OF WALLS ETC. AT AREA OF INTERIOR RENOVATION
5. SELECTED OPENINGS AT INTERIOR BEARING WALL
6. CREATING/MODIFYNG OPENINGS FOR NEW EXIT DOORS AT REAR SIDE OF THE LIBRARY

LEGEND:

— —	LOT LINE		REMOVE EXISTING HORIZONTAL STRUCTURE
- - -	REMOVE EXISTING CONSTRUCTION		REMOVE EXISTING FLOOR FINISH
	EXISTING WALL TO REMAIN		SCOPE OF WORK
	NOT IN SCOPE		



Proposed Lower Level Plan

EXTERIOR SCOPE:

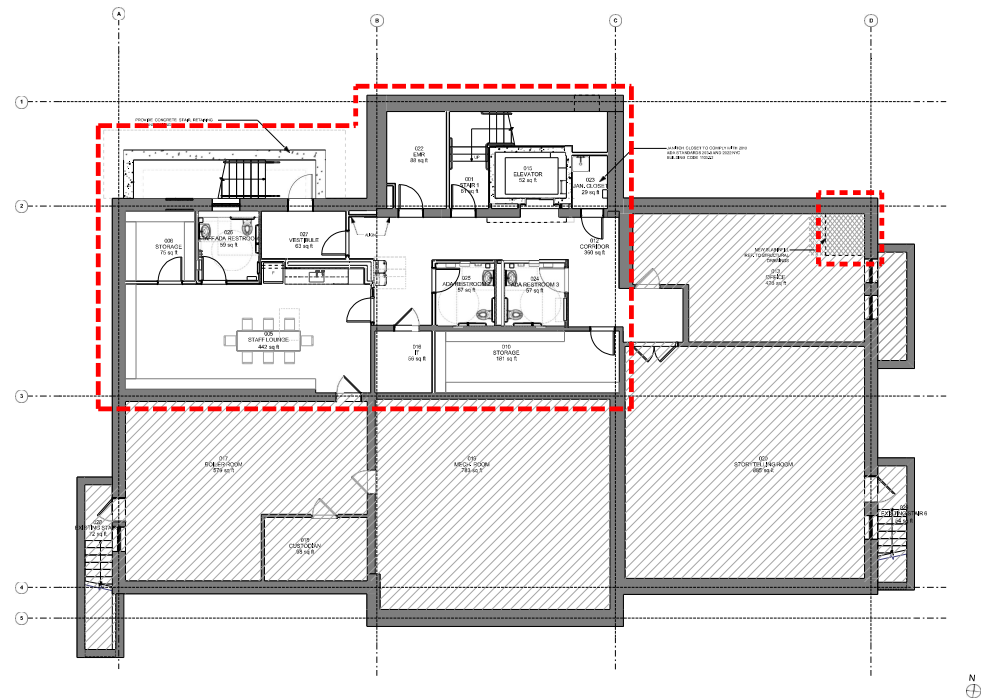
1. NEW CONCRETE STAIR, INCL. RETAINING WALLS, RAILINGS AND BUILDING EXIT DOOR
2. CLOSE OFF OF A WINDOW

INTERIOR SCOPE:

1. NEW INTERIOR STAIR CONNECTING LOWER LEVEL AND MAIN LEVEL AND LEADING TOWARDS NEW EXIT AT THE REAR OF THE BUILDING
2. NEW ELEVATOR
3. NEW ADA RESTROOMS
4. SELECTED SLAB INFILLS
5. RENOVATION OF STAFF LOUNGE AND ADJACENT STORAGE AREA
6. ADDITION OF SECURITY CAMERAS

LEGEND:

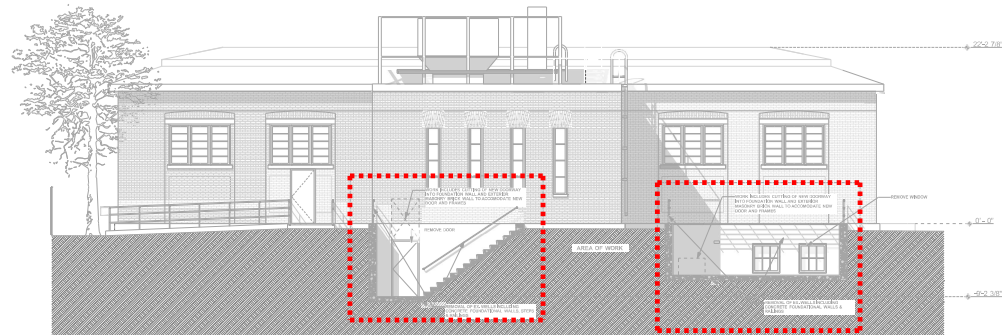
— —	LOT LINE		PROVIDE DOOR
- - -	REMOVE EXISTING CONSTRUCTION		EXISTING DOOR TO REMAIN
	EXISTING WALL TO REMAIN		SCOPE OF WORK
	NOT IN SCOPE		



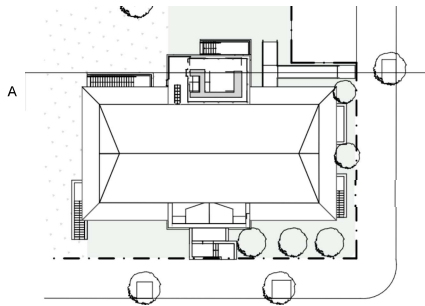
Existing & Proposed Elevation/ Section A

EXTERIOR SCOPE:

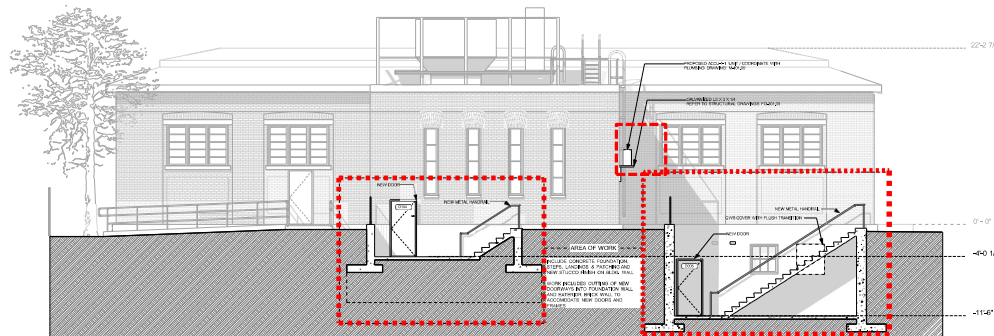
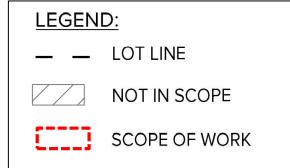
1. SCHEDULED FOR REMOVAL
2. NEW METAL RAILING
3. NEW CONCRETE RETAINING WALLS
4. NEW CONCRETE STAIR WITH LANDING
5. NEW STEEL DOORS
6. NEW AC UNIT



REMOVALS - NORTH ELEVATION / SECTION A - A



KEY PLAN



NORTH ELEVATION / SECTION A - A

Exterior Render



Leonard Library Phase II Construction Schedule

- Design Completion: December 2026
- Estimated Construction Start: Fall 2027
- Estimated Construction Completion: Fall 2029

Bushwick Library will soon close for construction and is expected to reopen in the second half of 2028. We will do everything we can do to minimize overlapping closure.

Programs and Services During Closure

- Weekly outreach including
 - Pop ups at local cafes
 - Park Storytimes
 - Street fair pop ups
- Events in partnership with local non-profits

Leonard Library's temporary closure is estimated to be 18+ months away. More details will be shared closer to the closing.



Contact Information

Brooklyn Public Library

Michael Fieni
mfieni@bklynlibrary.org
718.230.2052

NYC Department of Design and Construction

DDC Office of Community Outreach and Notifications (OCON)

Anna Killion | Outreach Coordinator
Office of Communication and Policy
C: 347.374.0930 / killionan@ddc.nyc.gov

Norberto Acevedo | Director
Office of Community Outreach & Notification (OCON), DDC
O: 718.392.102 / C: 347.249.371 / acevedono@ddc.nyc.gov



Investing in the Future of **Leonard Library**

Questions?



Appendix

Site Photos

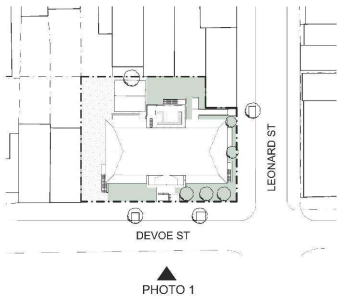


PHOTO 1: EXISTING VIEW OF MAIN ENTRANCE



PHOTO 2: EXISTING VIEW OF ENTRANCE AT PARKING AREA

Site Photos

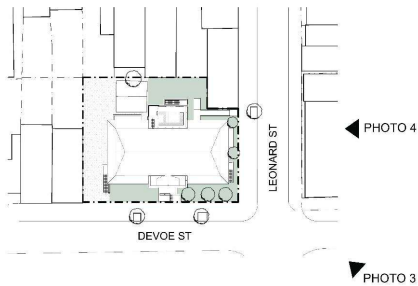


PHOTO 3: EXISTING VIEW OF CORNER AT DEVOE AND LEONARD STREET



PHOTO 4: EXISTING VIEW AT EAST FACADE AT LEONARD STREET

Site Photos

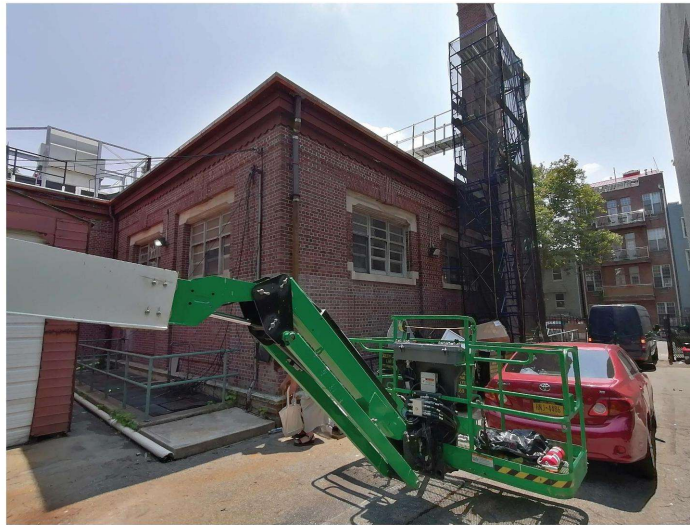
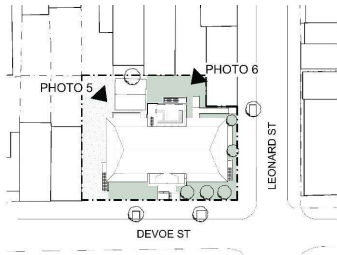


PHOTO 5: EXISTING VIEW OF NORTH/ WEST CORNER

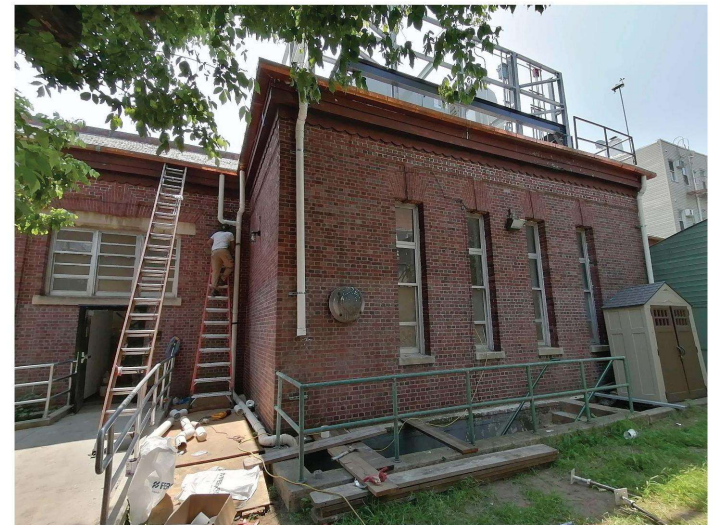


PHOTO 6: EXISTING VIEW OF REAR / NORTH ELEVATION

Site Photos

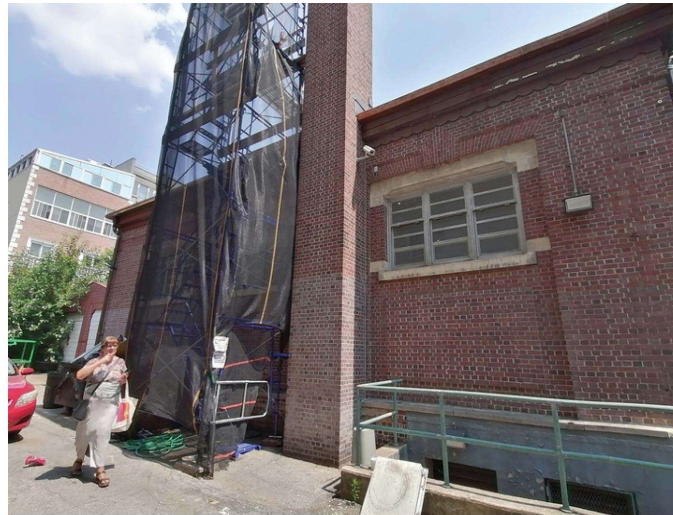
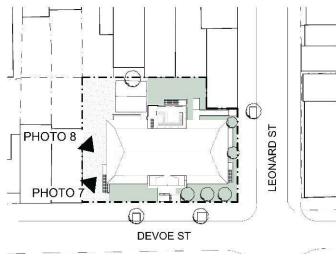
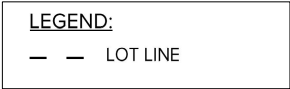


PHOTO 7: EXISTING VIEW OF EAST ELEVATION



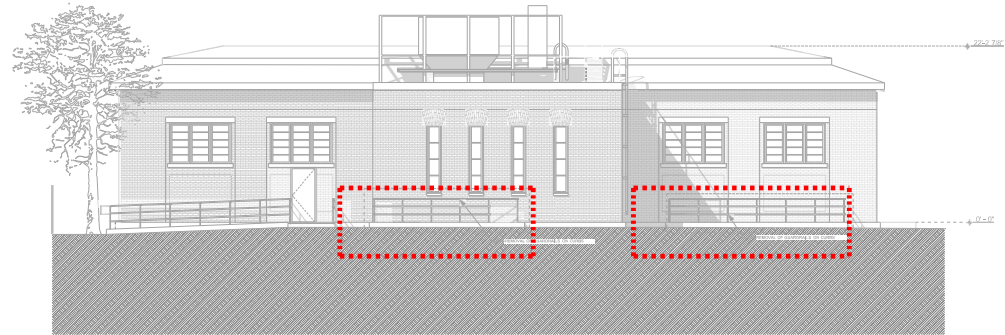
PHOTO 8: EXISTING VIEW OF EAST ELEVATION - EXISTING STAIRS FROM BOILER ROOM



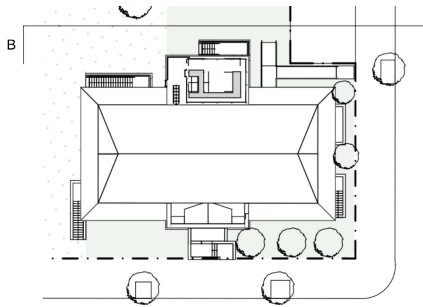
Existing & Proposed Elevation/ Section B

EXTERIOR SCOPE:

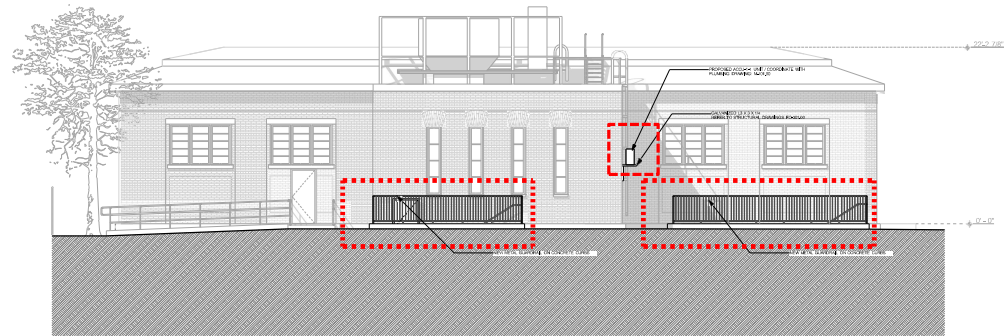
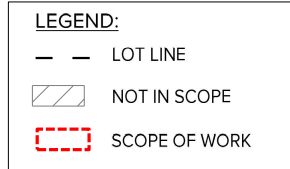
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REMOVALS - NORTH ELEVATION B - B



KEY PLAN



NORTH ELEVATION B - B

