



The City of New York

Queens Community Board 11

Serving the Communities of Auburndale, Bayside, Douglaston, Hollis Hills
Little Neck and Oakland Gardens

Michael Budabin **Chairperson** / Joseph Marziliano **District Manager**

To: All Board Members
From: Benjamin Turner, Library Committee Chair
Date: December 27, 2021
Re: Douglaston/Little Neck Library Reconstruction

On Tuesday, December 21, 2021, the CB11 Library Committee held a meeting to discuss the reconstruction and art presentation for the Douglaston/Little Neck Public Library.

Present

Committee Members

Michael Budabin, Board Chair
Benjamin Turner, Committee Chair
Jessica Burke
Susan Cerezo
Sharon Chin
Lourdes December

Henry Euler
John Kelly
George Mihaltzes
Christina Scherer

Board Members - Non-Committee

Paul DiBenedetto
Joan Garippa
Jyothi Sriram

Other Attendees

David Fischer – Representing Assembly Member Braunstein
Jomo Blackman – DDC
George Schieferdecker – BKSK Architects
Harpreet Dhaliwal – BKSK Architects
Victoria Kowanetz
Wendy Andringa
David Mandel, DCLA
Zia Dawood, QPL
Jonathan Chung, QPL
Misha Kahn – Artist
Daniela Castro – DDC

CB11 Staff

Joseph Marziliano, District Manager
Jane Bentivenga, Community Coordinator
Christina Coutinho, Community Associate

Mr. Turner opened the meeting by introducing George Schieferdecker representing BSKS Architects who gave a presentation on the new design for the Douglaston/Little Neck Library. Mr. Schieferdecker said they are at the point of completion of the design development phase. Next is the construction document phase when design goes to the contractor.

The library will be demolished in its entirety. The entrance will now be on 249th Street. The design will be two levels, a wedge shape that interlocks the 1st and 2nd floor. There will be a parapet on the second floor with a view to the first-floor green roof. Greenery will be added around the building. The second-floor roof will have a garden area that is opened from the children's library. There will be light wells to filter light to basement. The general goal is to add additional space to the library. Space for programs will double. There will be a teen's space, children's library, dedicated multipurpose room, adult reading room and space for staff. The colors will be warm grays, glass, and wood for a welcoming and warm invite. There will be an entrance garden with greenery, NYC Bike racks, rain gardens, and concrete bench. There will also be children's hummingbird garden on the second level with seating. Several flower beds will be installed with shrubs and perennial flowers. Oak and Harmony Trees will be planted along 249th Street. There will be recessed lighting at the main and secondary entrances. There will be recessed and LED strip lighting around the parapet, gardens, and artwork.

David Mandel from the Department Cultural Affairs discussed Percent of Art projects. The percent for Art Program offers City agencies the opportunity to acquire or commission works of art specifically for City-owned buildings. The purpose of the Program is to bring artists into the design process and enrich the City's civic and community buildings. The artist is paid by a percentage of the project.

Artist Misha Khan gave a presentation on the proposed pieces for the site. The proposed artwork will be installed in the light wells near the entrance on the ground floor and will also be visible from the cellar floor. Pieces will have elements and stories that bring out the history of Douglaston and Little Neck.

A question-and-answer period followed. The following are answers that provide information:
There will be two emergency exits. (Front door and another in the maintenance area)
The outdoor space (children's garden) on the second floor will have a reset opaque wall that is three feet high with another extended glass wall, so children are unable to climb (parapet).
The ceiling in the cellar 9 ft. high. The artwork can be seen but is unreachable.
There could be ways for individuals to navigate through the artwork. Maybe even a scavenger hunt for the elements shown.
The firm that has designed this library has designed others.
The square footage confirmation of the current library is much less than the proposed square footage of the new building which is 11,500 – the program area will be doubled.
Total budget will be \$25 million.
After the bidding process construction will begin. Construction is estimated to begin in 2023.
There was no answer as to where trucks will be parked during construction. That will be determined by the contractor.

A temporary library mobile bus station will be provided. A schedule will be agreed upon closer to construction.

This building will be LEED Certified.

Discussion ensued regarding updates to the Bayside Library.

A Committee recommendation was made for the full Board to approve the capital project with the art installation. The motion was seconded. The recommendation passed unanimously in favor.

The meeting adjourned.