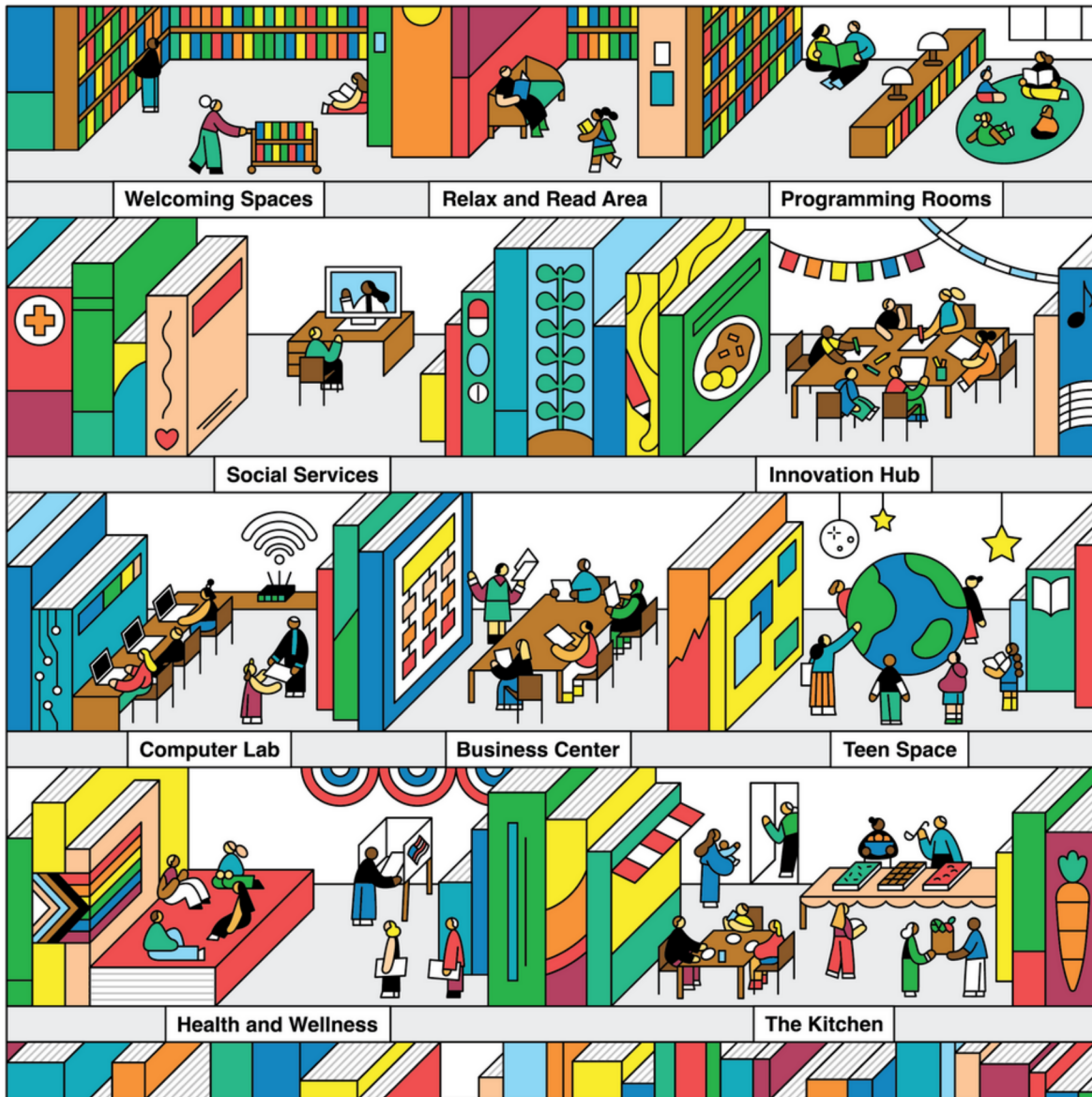


“A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people. It is a never-failing spring in the desert.”

ANDREW CARNEGIE



Libraries Are Not Just For Reading Anymore

Public libraries are a quintessential third space – an accessible place outside the home or work that promotes connection, community and emotion. Libraries provide important services to residents and are a connective fiber to a wide range of people of across genders, races, ages and income levels, housed and unhoused alike.



Welcoming Spaces | Libraries today are being designed and redesigned with this multi-functional role in mind. Communities are investing millions of dollars to construct **state-of-the-art, sustainable and purposeful buildings** that stand out as architectural beacons for their cities and towns.



Relax & Read Area | Libraries **serve as a refuge**, creating a peaceful environment conducive to reading, studying, or simply taking a break from the hustle and bustle of daily life. It's a space where individuals can escape distractions and immerse themselves in quiet activities without interruption.



Programming Rooms | Libraries are experts in listening to the community and identifying ways to **advance personal enrichment and encourage lifelong learning**. From knitting circles and cosplay design, chess clubs and author talks, to children's story times and retirement planning, libraries offer programming for a wide range of ages and personal interests.



Social Services | Libraries connect people to social services for support with homelessness, mental illness, opioid addiction and more. Libraries are staffed with social workers and form partnerships with agencies to streamline access to workforce assistance programs and provide computers, Wi-Fi and private rooms for telehealth appointments, supporting greater equity in healthcare access.



Innovation Hub | Also known as Makerspaces or DIY Labs, these areas of a library allow for hands-on learning through **exposure to new technologies and creative tools**, such as 3D printers, audio or video production equipment, or crafting and sewing supplies.



Computer Lab | Computer labs and digital literacy programs at libraries **build critical skills for school, jobs and life**. Librarians are trained to offer personalized guidance on using technology effectively and safely. Additionally, libraries bridge digital divides by lending tech devices and providing free Wi-Fi access.



Business Center | Libraries tailor collections and services to **support a diverse workforce**. Libraries provide job search assistance, career development programs, and résumé help. They also house small business centers that offer tools, mentoring, co-working space to foster local economies. Additionally, adult education programs build skills for employment, technology, finances and more.



Teen Space | Libraries **supplement in-school learning** with after school homework help and activities. Teen spaces are designed for the older student in mind with dedicated computers for teenagers, video game consoles, college and career services and volunteer or work study opportunities at the library.



Health & Wellness | Libraries are **safe and private spaces to obtain health information**. Staff help patrons navigate complex health systems and services. Health programs, partnerships with local clinics, and health literacy resources empower community wellness. Libraries also increase the civic health of a community by serving as election polling sites and providing information for voters.



The Kitchen | Libraries play a strategic role in **addressing local needs around food access**. Library gardens and cafes demonstrate healthy, sustainable food access. Cooking and nutrition classes build knowledge about food literacy and security, while local partnerships strengthen community food systems from farm to table.