

Lamond-Riggs Library Friends (LRLF) 2017 Survey Results

SURVEY RECAP

In July 2017, the Lamond-Riggs Library Friends (LRLF) embarked on developing a community survey to poll the community on its aspirations and expectations on the planned construction of a new Lamond-Riggs Library. Our purpose was to capture and document the latest community attitudes on the library. While the Lamond-Riggs Library is open to all, we targeted the survey to those neighborhoods within a one-mile radius of the library to elicit more nearby community content. The neighborhoods of Fort Totten, Lamond-Riggs, Manor Park, Michigan Park, North Michigan Park, Pleasant Hills and Queens Chapel were selected. Furthermore, we invited the civic associations in each neighborhood to participate, and we informed Advisory Neighborhood Commissions 4B and 5A of our activities.

The LRLF survey was launched in September 2017 and closed at end of October 2017. It was issued both online and in paper format, and it received 197 responses before closing. The LRLF survey addressed nine topics of interest, but the most important are Architecture, Demographics, Education (Programming) and Meeting/Study Room usage. A recap of the survey results follows.

DEMOGRAPHICS

In this section, the vital statistics of the survey respondents are given.

- Neighborhood: Of the 197 responses, the Lamond-Riggs (46.9%) and N. Michigan Park (23.5%) neighborhoods accounted for 70.4% of all responses.
- Age Group: The age groups of 25-34 (22.3%) and 35-44 (36%) accounted for 58.3% of all responses. However, the older population, ages 45-54, registered a 32% response. Teen and younger participants were less than 2%.
- Education: Those who have completed college represented almost 90% of all respondents, with Professionals accounting for 57.7% and Bachelors for 30.6%.
- Employment Status: Nearly all respondents were employed (75%), self-employed (15%) or retired (9.7%).

CHILDREN

The LRLF was also interested in the number families with young children living in the area. These children – and others - are our future patrons and should be recruited. Of the 197 respondents, 80 (40.6%) reported having children 18-years-old or younger living at home. The following table lists the number of children within each DCPL programming category: Toddler (ages: birth – 5), Children (ages: 6 – 12) and Teen (ages: 13 – 19).

DCPL Children's Programming Categories			
Count	Toddler	Children	Teen
	65	40	26

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MEETING SPACES

The LRLF is interested in the usage of meeting space to anticipate future needs. We solicited information on both the meeting rooms and the single study room in terms of reservation ease, monthly use frequency and hourly use. Our findings follow:

- Meeting Rooms:
 - Only 30% of the respondents used the meeting rooms;
 - The majority (over 72%) reported no difficulty with room reservation;
 - Most (80%) used a room once monthly while nearly 10% used it twice; and
 - The most frequent usage times are two-hours (51.9%) followed by 1-hour (29.6%).
- Study Room:
 - Just 17% of the respondents used the study room;
 - Over 88% reported no difficulty in reserving this room;
 - Most (74.3%) used the room once monthly while 14.3% used it twice; and
 - The most frequent usage times are 2-hours (37.1%), 1-hour (34.3%) and 3-hours (22.9%).

EDUCATION AND LEARNING

In this section, the LRLF was interested in discovering what educational programming the community desired for both youth and adults. We wanted the community's opinion on programming for the hearing and/or visually impaired and programming available through volunteerism. Also, we discovered that 68% of the 197 respondents were interested in the concept of Active Learning for youth and/or adults. The results follow:

- Youth Programming by popularity (109 responses):
 - Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics or STEM (82.6%);
 - Reading (70.6%);
 - Basic Computer Usage (48.6%) and
 - Introduction to Typing (41.3%).

Other Suggestions: Art; Banking; Coding/Image Diagram (for visually impaired); Financial Budgeting, Foreign Language & Career Planning; Lego Play Dates, Story Telling, Reading with Dogs and Skill or Craft Workshops; Programming & Touch Typing; Research/Writing Skill Building; Resume Writing; Robotics; Sign Language; and Vocational Training.

- Adult Programming by popularity (129 responses):
 - Foreign Language (71.3%),
 - Financial Planning (62.8%),
 - Computer Application Training (49.6%),
 - Adult Literacy (30.2%) and
 - Cell Phone Application & Security Training (26.4%).

Other Suggestions: Art; Book Club & Current Event Discussion; Camera & Editing; Children's Reading Time; Coding (Computer Programming); Cooking; Dance, Physical Activity & Yoga; Entrepreneurship (Small Business Networking); ESL; Health & Wellness; Maker Workshops,

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Author Events; Money Management; Photography Classes; Sewing & Croquet; Sign Language; STEM for Adults; Tai Chi for Seniors and Toastmasters.

- Library Experience Enhancing Services (Hearing and Visually Impaired) by popularity (95 responses):
 - Headphones (60%)
 - Large Computer Monitor (46.3%)
 - Large Keyboard (20%)
 - Braille (9.5%)
 - Sign Language (9.5%)

Other Suggestions: Bathroom Towels, Charging station, Coffee Café, Comfortable Seating (health issues), Enclosed Computer Room, Ergonomic Computer Equipment, Additional Programming for Children, Larger Book Collection, More Small Study Rooms, Natural Light and Windows, Private Rooms for Teens, Screen Reading Software, and Allocate Building Space by Age.

- Volunteerism by popularity (116 responses):
 - Tutoring (67.2%)
 - Child Literacy (55.2%)
 - Foreign Language (12.1%)
 - American Sign Language (3.4%)

Other Suggestions: Administrative Support, Adult Literacy/Writing, Basic Legal Advice, Checkout & Restock Books, Computer Literacy, Craft & Arts with Children, English as a Second Language, Fair Housing/Literacy, Health Literacy, Financial Planning, French, Health Literacy, Raw Vegan Cooking/Gardening, Social Services, Tech/Coding Education and Toast Masters.

ARCHITECTURE

In this section, we summarized your responses on various architectural styles, the current Lamond-Riggs facility, the preservation of neighborhood design characteristics and the addition of new, tentative open-air features and amenities.

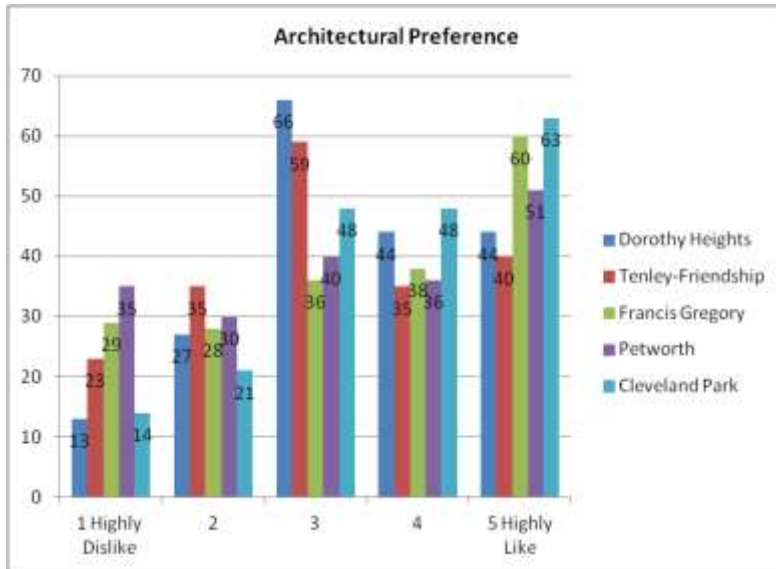
Architectural Styles

The LRLF requested your opinion on different architectural styles. For instance, how did all respondents view the Petworth Library “Built in the 1930’s and inspired by the Governor’s Palace in Williamsburg, Virginia”,¹ or the “dynamic glass and timber Francis A. Gregory Library”?² There is no ‘right or wrong’ answer. The LRLF was looking for any trends in preferences.

¹ francklohsen.com/index.php/institutional-commercial/dc-public-library-at-petworth

² Drayer, Jacqueline (2016, September 21) Building of the Week: Francis A. Gregory Library, <https://ggwash.org/view/42931/building-of-the-week-francis-a-gregory-library>

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The LRLF was able to rank the library branches as seen in the following table. You can produce the ranking for each branch by reviewing the Architectural Preference graph's horizontal axis, summing the *Likes* (4 and 5), summing the *Dislikes* (1 and 2) and then subtracting the *Likes* from *Dislikes* and ranking the results.

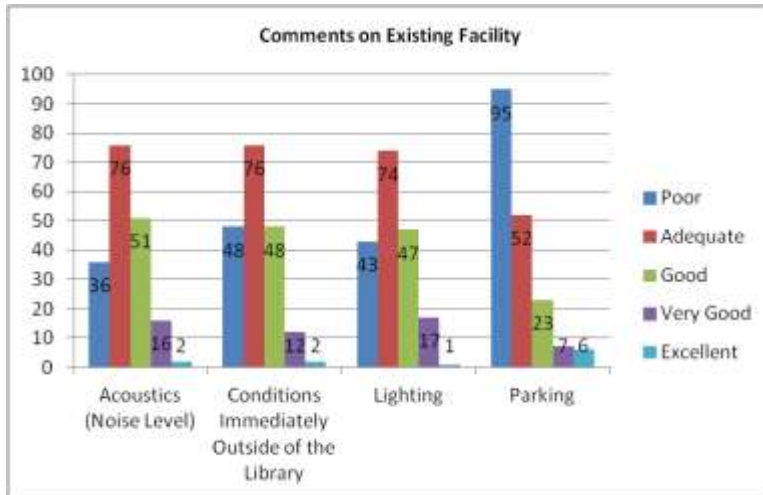
DCPL Branch	Sum of Likes	Sum of Dislikes	Difference	Ranking
Cleveland Park	111	35	76	1
Dorothy Heights	88	40	48	2
Francis Gregory	98	47	41	3
Petworth	87	65	22	4
Tenley-Friendship	75	58	17	5

Please note that all responses associated with item 3 were ignored since these responses represent no opinion.

Current Lamond-Riggs Environment

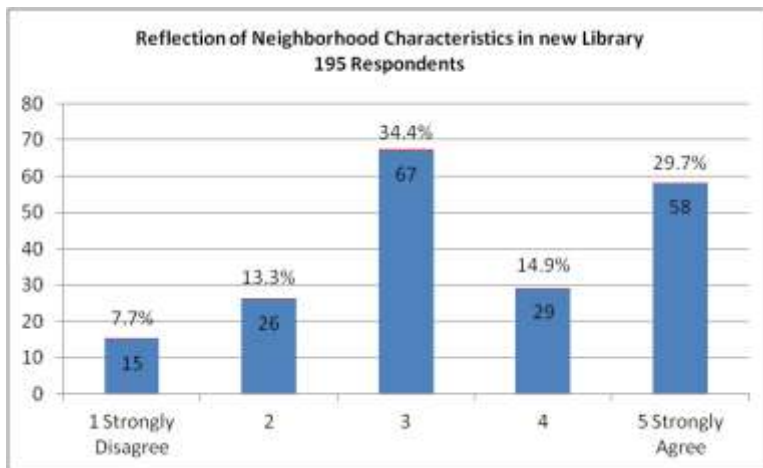
The point of commenting on the existing Lamond-Riggs library was to identify strengths and weaknesses. Three issues became apparent. First, parking is a major issue. The categories of 'Acoustics', 'Conditions Immediately Outside the Library' and 'Lighting' were deemed adequate. However, each category experienced an average decline of 27-points between its Adequate and Good ratings. Lastly, the Poor rating greatly exceeded the sum of the Very Good and Excellent rating in each category.

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Retention of Neighborhood Characteristics

The survey results show that the respondents are willing to show flexibility on the architectural style of the new Lamond Riggs library. While 29.7% of the respondents chose to 'Strongly Agree' that the new library fit in with the existing neighborhood architecture, 34.4% of the respondents were neutral. I believe the community will support a reasonable, but not an incongruent library design.



New, Tentative Open-Air Features

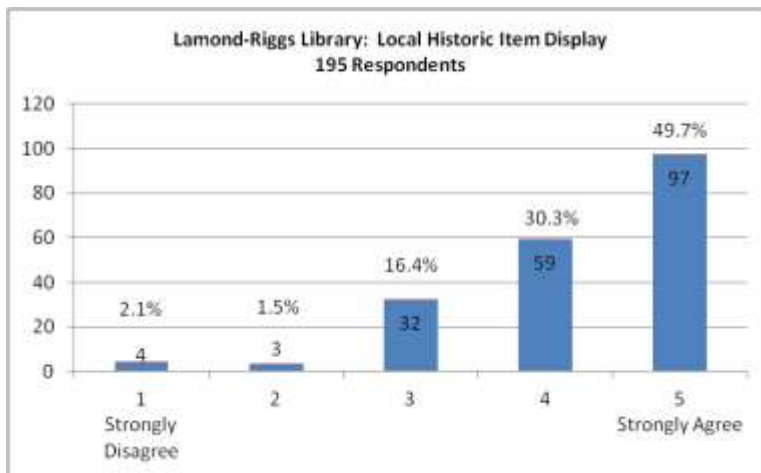
In this section, LRLF asked the community to evaluate potential new outdoor library amenities and offer their own suggestions. The 193 respondents strongly supported such amenities as a Courtyard (75.7%), Roof Terrace (73.6%), Benches (67.9%) and Planters (53.4%). Other amenities, including more parking, are listed below.

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Other suggestions: Art Sculpture; Bike Parking/Racks; Coffee Café, Large Meeting Room; Natural Light (more Windows); Media Room or Recording/Film Studio; Community Garden; Fenced Play Area, Green Area for Sitting & Reading; Green Roof (LEED); Parking (safe, spacious, 3-levels); Storm Water Management; Trees; and Well-Done Landscaping.

MISCELLANEOUS

The LRLF asked the community to express the degree of their agreement with the following question. We asked should the library showcase – prominently display – items of local historic importance. Ninety percent of the respondents agreed, with the ‘Strongly Agree’ option chosen by 49.7%.



Lastly, LRLF asked whether this community would be interested in possibly hosting any of the DCPL Labs. The MLK Library hosted the Fabrication (3-D printing and laser cutting), Memory (preservation of photos, negative and data) and Studio Labs (video and sound recording) prior to its closing for renovation. As can be seen, there is strong support for each lab.

