

Making Space for Young Adults in Public Libraries [name removed] Library

Staff Video One

Good afternoon, I'm [name removed]. I'm going to take you through the [name removed] Library. This is the smallest of our three libraries, part of the [name removed] Public Library District in [name removed]. This library opened in 2009, and it's the smallest of our three libraries at 16 thousand feet, and this library is located in a retail center called [name removed].

Initially this library had used a bookstore model. It uses a bookstore model to display books so that it's easily used for browsing. The idea behind the [name removed] Library, the teen space here, was that the kids and the [name removed] Readers Society group would choose the furnishings, and ultramodern furnishings that they picked are back here in the library's teen area, as you can see.

I'm going to show you right now some of the things we have in the teen area, and all of the seating and things were chosen by members of the [name removed] Public Library District's [name removed] Readers Society, [name removed].

First I'd like to show you over... a display over near the windows. It's a custom-made bulletin board. Because so many of the spaces in [name removed] actually curve around, this bulletin board had to be custom-made and the fabrics that cover it were chosen by members of the [name removed] group.

Now I'm over by the windows. This building uses a lot of natural lighting, and you can see that we also have some gaming areas to play over here, as well as some very unusual colored tables, and the tables are one of the more interesting things about this space.

Now I'm showing you some of the fiction books over here as well as two of our favorite teens' green chairs. They look really neat, but they're not so comfortable to sit on all the time. You'll also notice that we have some really avant-garde blue stools here. These have been very popular because the height adjusts, and so there are many things here that allow teens to just pretty much just hang out.

I'm looking now at some of the display books. You'll notice first of all that we do have different display signs. This one says "Too Good to Miss." This one says "Hot off the Press." This says "Listen." We use these various signs at different times of the year. We change them out so that teens can take a look at new materials and seasonal materials.

Lastly over here we have our graphic novel area as well as our nonfiction books on the other side. So this is one of the largest areas in this building, and we hope you enjoyed your tour.

[End of Staff Video One]

Staff Video Two and Three

N1: Hi, I'm [name removed], and I'm one of the two teen services librarians here at the [name removed] Public Library District, and we are sitting in the teen space at the [name removed] branch of our library district this afternoon, and we thought we would just share some information about... or just share some thoughts about our-teen space and why it's different from some of the other spaces that we have in our district.

N2: And hi, I'm [name removed], the other teen services librarian for the [name removed] Public Library District, and [name removed] pretty much said it. She's the good-looking one, by the way. [Laughter]

N1: Cut it out.

N1: I work at the [name removed] Library most of the time, and our teen space there is bigger... a little bit bigger, I think, than this space, maybe not much, but it's different because we have a different kind of a setting over there. We're a joint-use facility with [name removed] Community College at [name removed] Library, so we not only have the middle school and high school students that we serve, but we also serve the [name removed] Community College students, who are older teens, and we provide comfortable seating space and space to study, maybe a little more extensive space than we would at the other branches. We're going to be getting new booths there this summer to accommodate that need, but it's a comfortable space as well, and I enjoy working there. Each space kind of has its own spirit and flavor for the teens in that particular area of our community.

N2: And I work mostly out of the [name removed] Library, which was formerly known as the Main Library downtown, and we have a very different clientele also. We're in an older part of town. We're not particularly close to any school except [name removed] Middle School, but we attract a very diverse clientele, and I would say up until now that our teen area at the Main Library was just wide open.

It was accessible to just about anybody who wanted to sit in that space. And I mentioned earlier that we recently remodeled the entire [name removed] Library with a beautiful new teen space that the [name removed] members helped pick out the furnishings and colors for, and one of the first things they asked for was to have that space set off somehow so that its use is primarily for them, and certainly that's what we did. We have some panels that shut that space off. That area's a little bit challenging sometimes because it's over near the periodicals and newspapers, and that's an area that's used by everyone from the mission two blocks over, to people coming in to do research, all of those things, so I think [START Video3] that what we went for in the [name removed]

teen space was we wanted... it's a challenge in a smaller library to make a space feel really separate, and because this is a brand new library, and all the materials when we opened here were just brand new, it's a bookstore model. We wanted to make it eye-catching as well as comfortable, and as [name removed] has already noted, the... I would say the green chairs were kind of a spectacular failure in terms of comfort, but they certainly catch a person's eye, and I think that it's very, very... in this area, it's very obvious that this is the teen area, both from the height of the shelves to the way the books are displayed on a slant to the wall of new materials that are here, so I think a lot of thought went into planning this area.

N1: I agree with that. I remember those meetings where we had our teens gathered together with the floor plan for the library...

N2: With the blueprints.

N1: Yeah, with the blueprints, and we looked at... we had them look at this teen space and help us decide what would be in this area, everything from furniture to the layout, and one of the things I really like about this teen space is that it's not just fiction, but there's also a nonfiction section specifically for teens here, which is going to be actually at the new...

N2: At the [name removed] Library.

N1: At the remodeled [name removed] Library, we'll have a teen nonfiction section, and that's something we are missing at the [name removed] Library; but maybe someday we will have that added to our teen space. For now, there's stickers on the books and they're interfiled with the adult nonfiction.

N2: We even have teen biographies now at the [name removed], at the [name removed] place, so we have teen nonfiction, teen audio books, teen fiction and also the teen biographies, but back to this space, I think that there isn't much that I would change about this space except for the green chairs. I think it's really inviting. I think the colors are very kind of muted and comfortable for people, so hopefully we've learned a little something about how we planned the space.

N1: The last thing I would just like to say is that you might... you probably noticed there aren't a lot of computers in the teen space itself, and the reason for that is because there's computers right... public computers right next to the teen space, so the teens that use the library, they pretty much just step right outside the teen area and there's a whole section of computers right there, as well as the one computer we have right here in the teen space. So it's been really fun talking with you this afternoon about our [name removed] Library teen space, and I hope you learned something new.

[End of Staff Videos Two and Three]

Staff Videos Four and Five

N: I just found two teenagers over here in the teen area. I'm going to let them introduce themselves and talk a little bit about how they use the space here.

T1: Hi, I'm [name removed]. I'm a recent graduate of high school, and I've... I don't know. I come to this library mostly just for casual reading and because they have a lot better selection of newer stuff, and then I'm also a part of the teen advisory group, so I do a lot of like... a lot of the activities we have another areas of the library, and I've done some volunteer work here, yeah.

N: Okay, thank you.

T2: Hi, I'm [name removed]. I come to this space a lot too, because my mom... I stop to get a lot of books, and so I just read whatever I'm reading at the moment. I'm really actually obsessed with *Jeeves and Wooster* right now by P.G. Wodehouse, so it just... so I just come here to read that or sometimes magazines. They've got Mad Magazine, which I love to read even though I'm not a 12-year-old boy. [laughs]

N: What's your favorite thing about hanging out in this space? What do you like about being back in this section?

T2: I like that it's quiet and there's chairs.

T1: I agree, because it's like it's far enough removed from the kids' section that you don't get a lot of the bleed through from rowdy kids, but then it's also not so quiet that you feel like you have to be like absolutely silent, and I think... yeah, [laughs] it's really nice.

T2: Yeah.

N: [name removed], you were in the group that helped to pick the furnishings for this area. Tell me what you're happy with and maybe what you would change if you could.

T1: Um, I was really excited because they took my suggestion on the-on the carpeting on the board. I, hm... Mostly, like, it is nice because there are a variety of seats, but at the

same time, some of the seats are just painfully uncomfortable, like the green thing, as cool as it looks, it's a regrettable decision, so you know, aesthetically there's a lot but there's moments where, you know, it doesn't quite work in practice.

N: Okay, what about you? What do you like about this space, and what would you change if you could?

T2: I like that I can reach the shelves. On some of the adult ones, I have to stand on one of those things [laughs] but I don't know, yeah, some of the seating is uncomfortable, so I just tend to stick to one chair.

N: Okay.

T1: Usually the couches.

T2: The couches.

N: Where is the first place you go when you come in here, into this space?

T2: I go to just the book section just to find something to read.

N: Okay.

T2: Or the magazines, depending what I'm feeling like.

N: Great.

T1: I... yeah, I usually go to... we have a row of like newer books [START Video5] or like hot reads right now, and I usually go and pick those up because I usually run out of stuff to read [laughs] otherwise, so yeah, I usually head over to this wall first.

N: How does this space compare to other libraries that you visit, even in this library district?

T1: Well, I think this one's... like it's smaller, but that makes sense because it is a much smaller library, but it also kind of has more of a feel of a bookstore almost, since it's really easy to see all the titles, as opposed to like there's... it's a bit tricky sometimes finding stuff at our Main and [name removed] branches. And, yeah, it is... it is a lot easier to reach everything, because I'm also not particularly tall [laughs], so you know, that's really nice.

N: And have you been to one of the other libraries?

T2: Yeah, the Main branch is a lot like this, I think. Sometimes the seating's a *little* bit more comfortable, but then you... then you get people that you don't really necessarily want to be in the teen section, the teen section at the Main library, so...

N: This is a much tamer crowd.

T2: Yeah.

N: And the teen section at the Main library is just remodeled also and it's set off. You'll have to see.

T2: Yeah, I know it's really cool. [Laughs]

N: Are there any other comments that you might want to make about this area?

T1: Um...I have to think of words...

T1: I personally think it's also a really great study space, because we do have like... we have awesome... we have access to computers, which is nice because I consistently don't have a computer available to me. and we also have, you know, a lot of areas where you can sit down and do your math homework. And it's also... it's got a very nice crowd that comes in here. It's also kind of nice because you can kind of like... since there are a lot of shops around here, like I'll go out shopping and then I'll like casually be able to stop in here, which is always really nice.

N: Okay.

T2: It's also... also really nice that this is between two high schools, and like in the place that [name removed] High School and also [name removed] High School go to lunch, so you have a little bit more time and you can just pick up a book or, you know, hang out here.

T1: I also think... yeah, it is nice. It's really convenient for a lot of people because Main and [name removed] are both... they're not particularly close to each other, but they're both definitely on one half of town, and it's nice for people who do live on this half of the town that there is somewhere you can meet.

T2: Yeah.

N: That's right. We also have two middle schools close by.

T2: Oh, yeah, we do.

N: [name removed] and [name removed].

T1: And [name removed] isn't that far.

T2: And [name removed] just down there, and then [name removed] isn't that far, either.

N: No, we get people who come over here from [name removed] on the bus, so yeah, anything else you want to finish up by saying?

[No audible response]

N: Well, thank you for sharing thoughts and impressions with us today. We appreciate that, thank you.

T2: Thank you.

[End of Staff Videos Four and Five]