Powering Up Library Media Centers for the 21st Century

ABOUT LMC21

LMC21 launched in the fall of 2007 as a collaborative effort between the Astor Center for Public School Libraries at New Visions for Public Schools, The NYC Department of Education, Office of Library Services, diDomenico + Partners, LLP Architects, and the NYC School Construction Authority to help eight New York City High School campus communities re-imagine and renovate their outdated libraries.

The capital investment of over $4 million dollars from the New York City Council members RESO A funding afforded over 13,000 NYC high school students across 25 schools access to redesigned and renovated 21st century school libraries.

GOALS:
• To develop cutting edge 21st century technology rich campus libraries that meet the diverse instructional needs of multiple themed high schools in a shared building.
• To foster deeper collaboration among campus schools through the redefinition of a shared academic space.
• To use the high contemporary design ideas in a participatory design process led by architectural experts to build student excitement about literacy, inquiry and learning.

DESIGN PROCESS

LMC21 initiated an intensive campus-wide visioning and participatory design process, empowering school leaders, librarians, teachers, students, parents and community partners to see themselves as library advocates and change agents.

Working with a full service architectural firm the campus schools’ Library Advisory Council (LAC) members participated in 4 sessions to re-envision their existing libraries as cutting edge 21st century libraries. The process resulted in a design plan of how the renovated library might look and operate to support and foster 21st century information literacy skills, inquiry, research, technology and information access.

SESSIONS ONE AND TWO
• Understanding what an effective 21st Century library must incorporate to serve diverse schools.
• Create vision and mission for the renovated library.
• Architects guide the LAC in “design charrettes” to walk the current library sketching out what the redesigned library might look like.

SESSIONS THREE AND FOUR
• Architects share 3 designs and computer renderings based on the previous session’s ideas and incorporating costs for each.

CAMPUSSES
• Adial E. Stevenson Educational Campus
• Christopher Columbus Educational Campus
• George W. Wingate Campus
• James Monroe Campus
• Prospect Heights Educational Campus
• Hillcrest High School
• South Bronx Campus
• Evander Childs Educational Campus

Following discussion the LAC comes to consensus on all the elements they would like to see in their renovated library design.

• Architects return with the final design which includes suggested materials, furniture ideas and colors.
• The campus LAC, architects and SCA agree on the final design.
• Following scope approval and SCA bidding the work can begin.