

New Library Spaces Overview

Balancing access, policy, and law

Intended Purpose and Sharing of Space

The Appleton Public Library (“Library”) encourages the use of its meeting and study rooms by the public to support educational, cultural, informational, and civic activities.

The Library is committed to providing free and equitable access to these spaces, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of the individuals or groups requesting their use.

The Library adheres to the principles of intellectual freedom, adopted by the American Library Association, as described in the Library Bill of Rights.

While recognizing that, at time, certain uses of Library spaces for their intended purposes may indirectly bring certain expressive activities, public use of Library space does not imply Library endorsement of the content or viewpoints expressed.

FORUM ANALYSIS – WHY DOES IT MATTER?

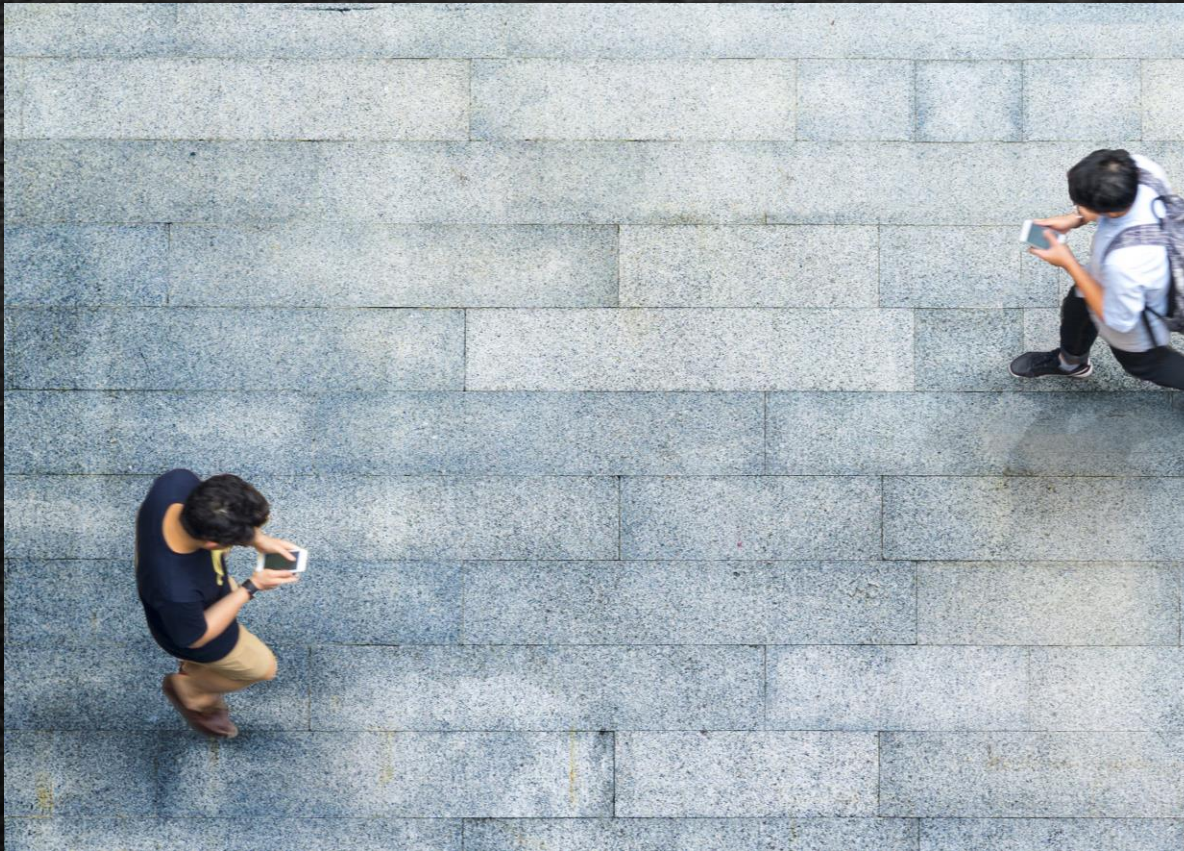
Type of Public Forum	Definition	Examples
Public Forum	Places open to public expression and assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public Parks• Sidewalks• Streets
Limited Public Forum	Spaces that are intentionally opened for specific uses, such as meetings or programs, but with limitations on who can use the space and for what purpose. Reasonable restrictions on the time, place, and manner of use can be imposed to ensure space is used for activities aligned with library's mission.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public library meeting rooms• Public library bulletin boards• Library social media pages

FORUM ANALYSIS – WHY DOES IT MATTER? (Continued)

It is important to understand the limitations the First Amendment imposes on the Library's ability to restrict the use of spaces, such as meeting rooms, that are made available to the public for assembly and speech.

Reviewing courts will look at the policies related to the restrictions put on the use of those spaces but will also review how those policies are followed. A clear and consistent approach to the use of Library spaces is as important as the policies created.

PUBLIC FORUMS



Open to public expression and assembly.

Examples:

- Streets
- Sidewalks
- Parks

LIMITED PUBLIC FORUM

When speech is opened for a particular purpose, restrictions must be viewpoint-neutral and reasonable in light of the forum's purpose.

Examples:

- City Council Meeting:
 - Restricting public comment at a Council meeting to commentary relevant to subjects on the agenda.
 - Limiting each speaker to 5 minutes.



Library Meeting Rooms as a Limited Public Forum



Community Meeting Room

- The Library is not obligated to provide access to its meeting rooms and other facilities.
- If the Library chooses to open its meeting rooms those rooms are considered a public forum. Library policies make the meeting rooms a **limited public forum**.
- Adherence to policies will ensure that the Library's control of access to the meeting rooms will be treated as a limited public forum, subject to the following.
 - The Library cannot disadvantage or exclude speakers or groups from using their facilities solely because they disagree with those parties' views or the content of their speech.
 - The Library may not exclude a group from its facilities to avoid controversy or public disapproval.
 - The eligibility guidelines established by policies allow the Library to limit access to the meeting rooms. Equal application of the policies is required.

TYPES OF MEETING ROOM USES

1. Library-sponsored event: Planned and executed by the library.

Co-sponsored events are normally considered to be library-sponsored.

2. Non-library sponsored event: Planned and executed by an entity other than the library.

TYPES OF USES IN NEW LIBRARY



- Only Library-sponsored events allowed in these spaces:
 - All Children's Spaces including Learning Stairs
 - Flex Box

TYPES OF USES IN NEW LIBRARY: Non-library sponsored events



Potential rental space for private events (only available in ground level large conference room and upper level community meeting room)

NEW

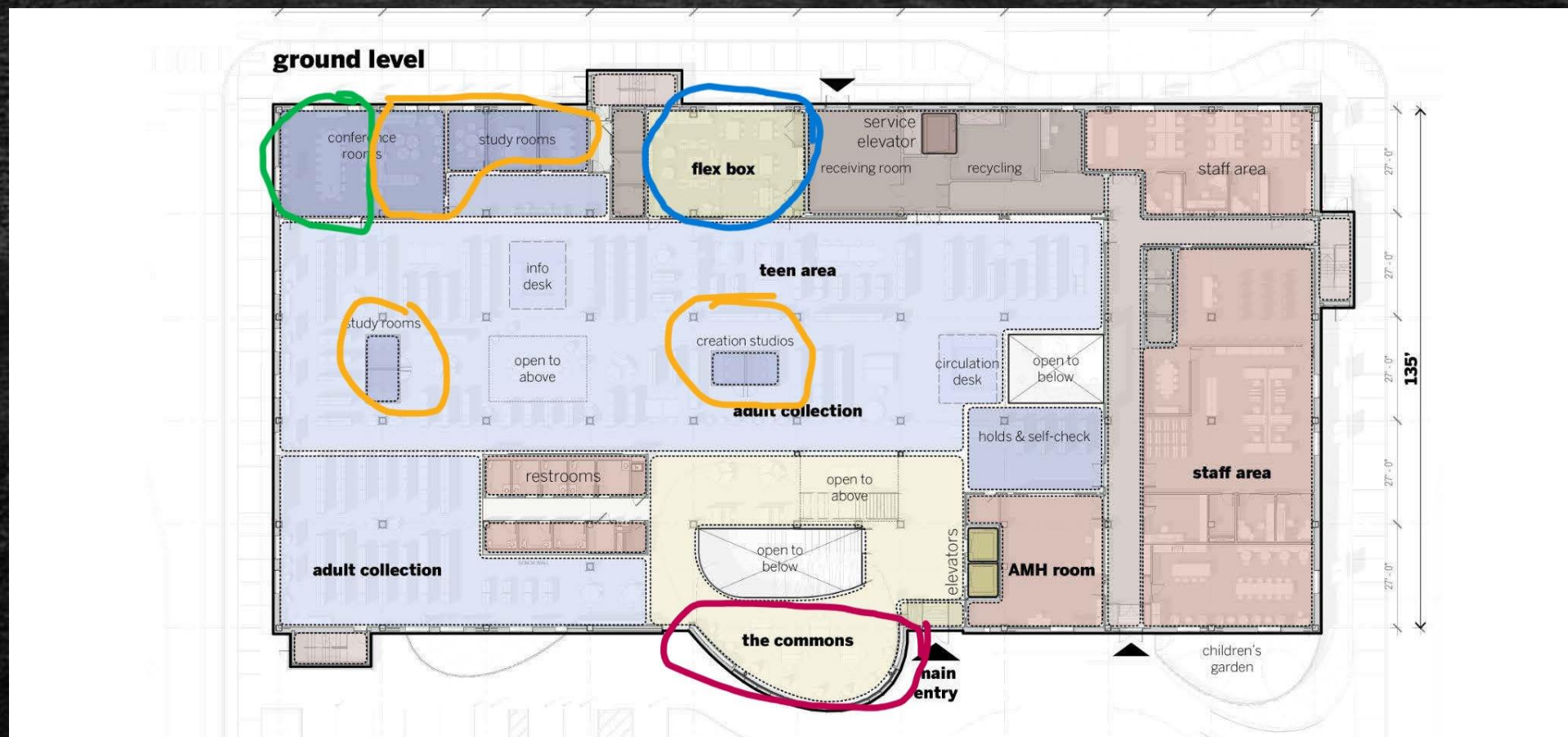
Public meetings offered by third parties

TYPES OF USES IN NEW LIBRARY: Study and small conference rooms

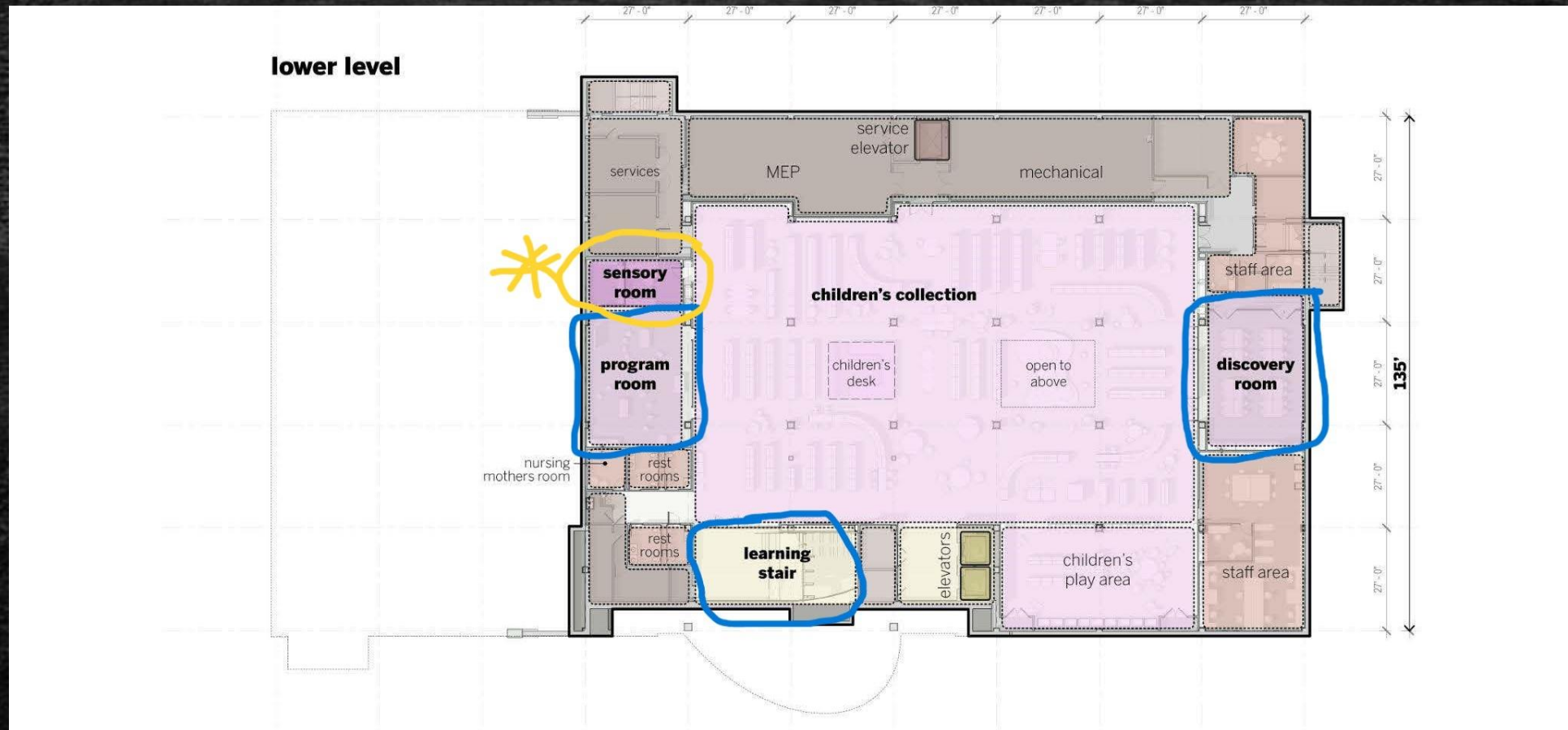
- Individual and small groups
 - Ex. Tutors, job interviews, social services
- Reservations
- First come-first served
- Unconference Room ***NEW***



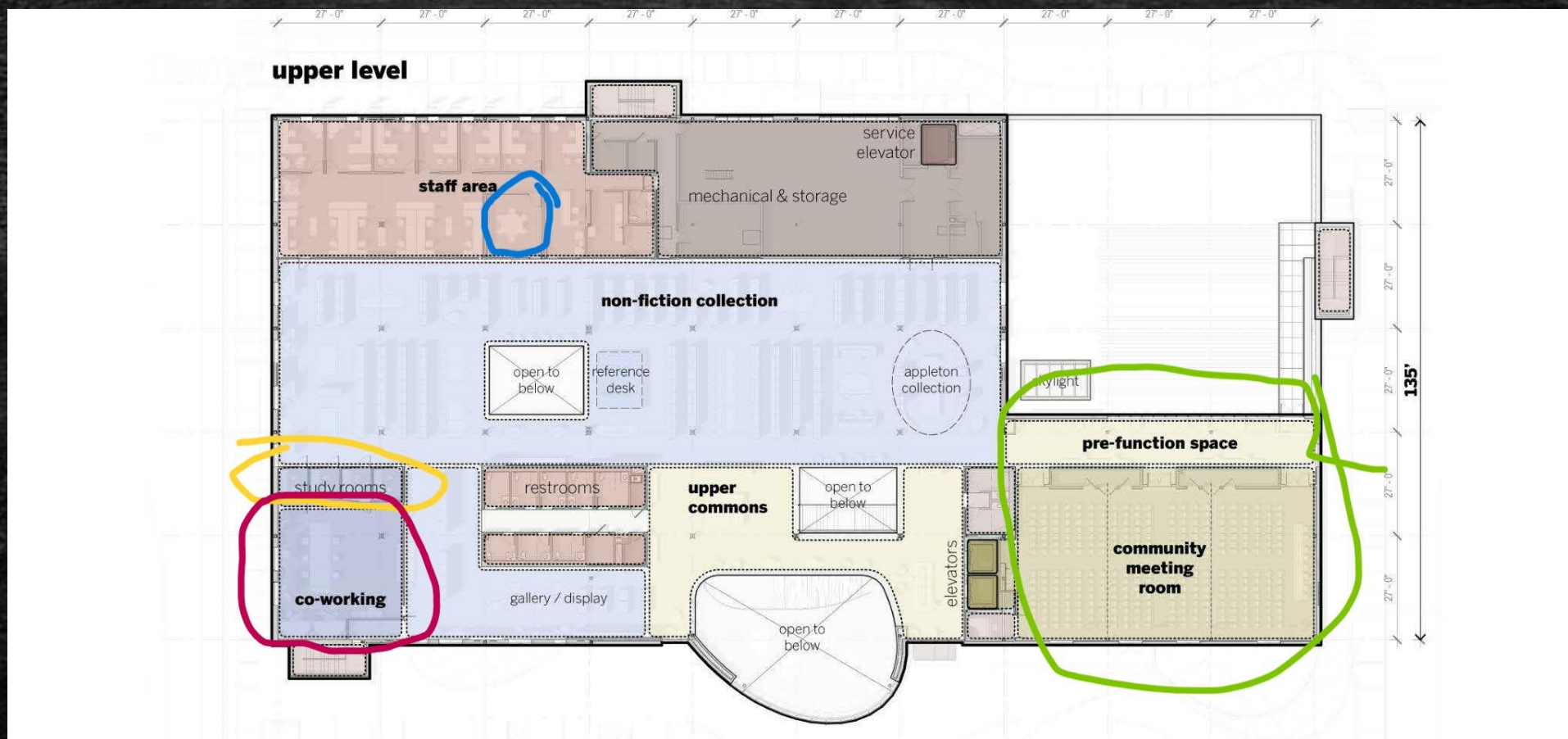
Ground Level



Lower Level



Upper Level



Questions?



<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/meetingroomsqa>