



Rondo Community Library Update

Library Board January 14, 2026

Today's Goals

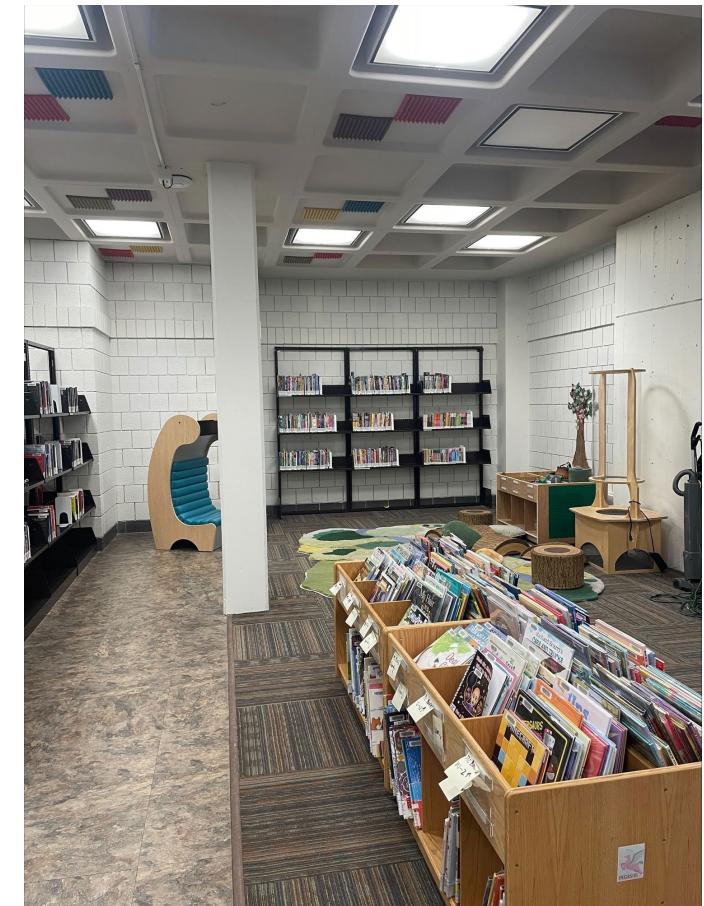
- Update on temporary location at the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center.
- Update on renovation of permanent location at University and Dale.
- Update on planned community engagement to inform renovation.

Rondo Community Library at the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center

Open House and Ribbon Cutting event last Friday!



Rondo Community Library at the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center



Library Services

- **Collections:** Books, DVDs, newspapers, and more for all ages
- **Programs:** Storytime, FunLab, CreaTech, Homework Center, Reading Together
- **Services:** CROP, Open Lab, Computer Class, Open to Business, Public Health



Library Program Schedule

Homework Center: Mon-Thurs

Reading Together: Mon-Thurs

Snack: Mon-Thurs

Storytime: Thursday am

Fun Lab: Sun/Wed

Createch: Tues/Fri

CROP: Tuesday am

Computer class: Wed/Fri

Mental health drop-in:
Mon/Wed

Open Lab: Wed

Open for Business:
Thurs

Coffee and community gathering: Monday



Partnerships

- Library programs are being held in library study rooms, library program room or library Youth Services area.
- All Hallie Q Brown services operating as planned.
- MLK Rec is partnering with library to host one session per week of
 - Createch
 - Computer class
 - Fun Lab



Library Materials

- DVDs (adult, juvenile, foreign)
- Picture books, readers, board books, juvenile non-fiction
- Teen graphic novels, Teen Fiction, Teen Nonfiction
- Adult Fiction, Mystery, Science Fiction, Urban Fiction
- Adult Non-Fiction
- Lucky Day materials
- Rotating CD/LP display



Meeting Rooms

Rondo Community Library at the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center has:

- Two study rooms that can seat up to four each.
- Program space is reservable outside program times for up to 35 people

Library meeting rooms reservable at sppl.org 1/20/26

The Hallie Q. Brown Community Center has rooms available to rent:

- Club room A (capacity 20 ppl)
- Club room C (capacity 115 ppl)
- The Canteen (capacity 190 ppl)

HQB meeting rooms reservable at 651-224-4603

Other city locations with larger meeting rooms:

- George Latimer Central Library: 70
- Highland Park Library: 42; Highland Rec: 152 (theater)
- Merriam Park: 50
- Saint Anthony Park: 60
- Sun Ray: 50
- Arlington Hills: 75
- Oxford: 78
- North End: 77
- Frogtown: 75

Hours and Staffing

- Rondo Community Library at the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center is open regular Rondo hours: 7 days/59 hours weekly.
- Current open hours: Sun. 1-5 p.m.; Mon-Thurs. 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Fri. & Sat. – 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
- 16 library staff are now assigned to the Rondo Community Library at the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center.

Transportation

- Metro Transit bus #65 goes on Dale Street. Stop is Dale and Iglehart. Then walk one block down Iglehart to the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center.
- Plenty of parking for library patrons in the main lot – at least 80 spots.

Community First Public Safety

- Library safety specialists are present at Rondo Community Library at the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center during every open hour.
- Rondo Community Library and other SPPL locations have safety playbooks and standard response protocols for emergency situations.
- Social service partners present at weekly CROP, including RADIAS Health, MN Community Care, Community Action Partnership, and others continue to be present at both the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center and the George Latimer Central Library on a weekly basis.

Community First Public Safety

- SPPL welcomes everyone who is able to follow library code of conduct. We are not, however, a shelter for our unhoused neighbors. We refer folks who need services to other partners.
- As is our current practice in all locations, Saint Paul Public Library staff and our Mental Health Professional will continue to coordinate with Familiar Faces and HART team in connecting community members to necessary resources and support.
- If unsheltered individuals are in need of services, library staff refer to Familiar Faces to assess service connection history with Continuum of Care Service Providers.
- SPPL and The Hallie Q Brown Community Center, along with MLK Rec, are staying in regular conversation about services and safety. If there are additional crisis needs during the period of our lease, SPPL and the City of Saint Paul has resources to assist if needed. HQB also has experience supporting folks in crisis.

Communication

Please help us communicate about our new temporary location!

- Email
 - Patrons who have marked Rondo Community as their home library in their account
 - Newsletter list (sign up at sppl.org)
- Website
- Location changed in google maps, apple maps, sppl.org
- Social media
- Info in the library
- Signage and info posted at Rondo Community Library
- Partner and media outreach

Renovation Update

Improvements of location at Dale and University are informed by:

- Ongoing patron and staff experience and feedback
- Community-guided community first public safety approach of the City
- Community-informed Library enhanced safety plan
- Best practices from crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) through city experts from SPPD, ONS, and Library itself

Timing is informed by:

- Availability of one-time funds allocated to Library by the City of Saint Paul.

Renovation Update

- SPPL has found a way to leverage other funding and adjust internal timelines to ensure Rondo Community Library receives its planned Transforming Libraries technology-rich and play and learn space investments in 2026, without extending the existing closure timeline.
- The budget for the technology-specific work, which is already secured via a grant from the State of Minnesota, will be coming to City Council later this month for approval.
- The budget for the play and learn space investments is already secured through private funds from The Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library

Renovation Timeline

January-March 2026 Schematic Design & Design Development

- January 3 Rondo Community Library at the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center opens to the public
- MSR conducts schematic design development and reviews with SPPL
- Cost estimating conducted
- SPPL conducts community engagement; continues staff engagement

April 2026 Design Development & Construction Documents

- Development of construction documents and release of bid package for SPPL review & approval

May-June 2026 Project Bidding & Bid Award

- Bidding and construction: Bid opportunity goes live; SPPL selects and contracts with general contractor

June-October 2026: Construction Phase

- Anticipated major construction
- More specific information about the construction phase of the project will be available after completion of construction documents

November 2026

- Recommissioning and preparation for reopen

December 2026

- Reopen to public

Community Engagement

January: Open House and Ribbon Cutting event

February: Schematic design updates, entryway preferences – survey

February: Meeting room improvements via email to everyone who has booked a meeting room in 2025

March: Caregivers and families via dot-voting, conversations after youth programming and storytimes.

March: Focus groups with Rondo elders, Homework Center parents and students, CROP patrons

March: Rondo staff table at key neighborhood events with surveys

March: Surveys and conversations at large library events including Iftar

During our Temporary Re-location

- Some administrative staff will still office at 461 North Dale
- The Mobile Library will still operate from this location
- Contracted security will support the exterior of the building during closure
- Continued library collaboration, outreach and communication with businesses, community partners and city colleagues.
- Regular updates for W1 and Library Board Chair



Questions?

