



**Saint Paul  
Public Library**

# **Rondo Community Library Update**

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# Rondo Community Library

## At a Glance

- Opened in 2006
- Almost 3,000 hours open annually
- Almost 250,000 library visits in 2024, 350 programs
- 2,791 Homework Center visits

## Key Partners:

- Sankofa/NdCAD
- BYHAC (Black Youth Healing Arts Center)
- Saint Paul Parks and Rec
- Urban Farm/Garden Alliance
- St. Paul Promise Neighborhood



# Embedded in Community

- Community Coffee Programs
- Consistent Feedback
- Ward 1 Presence
- Community Events on Uni/Dale



# Renovation: History

- 20 years after opening, original vision for the foyer is not the vision of today
- Expansive entryway, bathrooms next to front door create challenges
- Limits staff members' ability to welcome patrons effectively

# Renovation: Today

## **The opportunity is 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)

# Renovation: Future

- Rondo Community Library will close temporarily by the end of 2025 for renovations to improve the entryway and relocate the bathrooms.
- Renovations will **improve library user experience** by moving the service desk closer to the entrance and bathrooms deeper into the building.
- **Library services** will continue at the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center during the closure, keeping us in the heart of the Rondo community.

# Services at the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center

The Hallie Q. Brown Community Center is known as the “Lighthouse of the Community,” and provides programming and services ranging from early learning, youth and senior programming, to their food shelf and clothing closet.

It is located a few blocks south of the current library location, still in the Rondo Community.



# Library Services at the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center

- **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





# Partnerships, Opportunities

- Co-located with the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center, Penumbra, and MLK Rec Center
- Opportunity to share space and collaborate on programming with Parks and Rec
- Increase number of residents with library cards in the area through ongoing outreach, engagement, and amplifying those efforts through partnerships



## During our temporary re-location

- Some administrative staff will still office at 461 North Dale
- The Mobile Library “Mobi” 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

# Hours and Staffing

- Rondo Community Library will be open regular hours while at the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center
  - 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.
- The Hallie Q. Brown Community Center space itself is smaller than our current space and will not require as much staff for full operations
- Some staff will be temporarily assigned to other Saint Paul Public Library locations during this time

# Timeline

**October** – Finalized lease and facilities agreements executed; staffing and services plan completed and shared with staff

**November** – Work begins at the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center

**December** – Anticipated last day of service at 461 Dale Street North

**January** – Anticipated first day of service at the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center

# Communication and Timing

- **Communication to community members is highest priority** now that lease is signed.
- **In the next week** we'll begin communicating a specific date for temporary closure of current location and opening of services at the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center.
- **Aligning pause in timing with scheduled seasonal breaks** for Homework Center, Reading Together, Sankofa, has been primary driver for the timing

# Communication

- Website: [sppl.org](http://sppl.org)
- Email
  - Patrons who have marked Rondo Community as their home library in their account
  - Newsletter list (sign up at [sppl.org](http://sppl.org))
- Social media
- Signage and info posted at Rondo Community Library
- Partner and media outreach



**Questions?**

