

Red Hook Library Renovation

Red Hook Library is undergoing a comprehensive renovation and is expected to reopen in 2025.

The reconfigured interior space will feature:

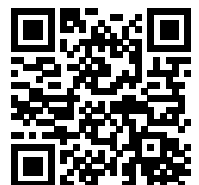
- More public space; a 14% increase
- Flood mitigation and protection
- Floor-to-ceiling windows
- A space just for teens
- A dedicated children's room for storytimes and programs
- A community room
- Two reservable meeting rooms
- Brand new furniture and upgraded technology, including laptop loans

The new outdoor space will feature:

- Outdoor public seating
- Outdoor reading and activity areas
- An entrance for after-hours garden events
- Landscaped native plants, with a focus on evergreens for year-round appeal

Environmental features will include:

- Designed to be a "Net Zero Building," so the total energy used on an annual basis will equal the energy created on-site
- Solar panels on the roof will collect energy for the building



Red Hook Library Renovation FAQs

What is the timeline? What will happen while the library is closed?

Construction starts spring 2023 and the branch is expected to reopen in 2025. Several neighborhood organizations have expressed interest in hosting library programs during this period. Red Hook Library will engage the community on the best ways to deliver select library services during construction.

How much will the renovation cost and who is paying for it?

While construction costs are not finalized, the renovation's budget is currently \$17.5 million in capital funds, which were allocated by the City of New York. These funds include allocations from the Department of Citywide Administrative Services and from Council District 38's Participatory Budget process.

How was the community consulted on this project?

Brooklyn Public Library presented an initial proposal in 2014 to renovate Red Hook Library's interior in partnership with an arts nonprofit. In response to concerns raised by the community, including unease about the loss of library floor space, BPL agreed to engage in further community discussions before moving forward. The library held two community engagement labs in 2015, including one focused on teens, and BPL decided to pursue a library renovation in line with the community priorities presented at these labs.

BPL continued engagement around this project and library programs with attendance at Community Board meetings and with presentations to NYCHA Tenant Association (West) and Board of NYCHA Red Hook (East), elected officials and community organizations. In Fall 2019, architects LEVENBETTS presented designs to Community Board 6's Youth/Human Services/Education committee. This project was initially set to begin in fall 2020, though the pandemic ultimately delayed construction until spring 2023.

What flood precautions are included?

Red Hook Library is being designed to satisfy NYC Building Code Appendix G, which requires the building to be Dry Flood Proofed. All mechanical and electrical equipment will be placed on the library's roof, flood resistant walls and windows will create a "flood wall" of 3.5 feet around the building and the exterior will feature permeable landscaping and a garden bioswale. Also included are moveable, flood-proof devices to place at doors where water could potentially enter the building.

Who is working on this project?

Economic Development Corporation (EDC) is managing this project for Brooklyn Public Library. The selected architect is LEVENBETTS, a firm that won an Architecture in America (AIA) award for its design of the interim Brooklyn Heights Library.