

FOCUS AREA: LIBRARY SPACE

Objective:

The library’s physical and digital space should provide a welcoming environment that respects individuals and their cultures and allows diverse children and teens to express their learning and individuality.

Characteristics:

Effective library spaces are:

- *Affirming:* They celebrate diversity and highlight positive, non-stereotypical representations of diverse children and teens.
- *Responsive:* They adapt in response to changing youth demographics, needs, and interests.
- *Welcoming:* They invite BIYOC, their families, and community members into the space and communicate that they are valued.
- *Respectful:* They adopt an asset-based stance toward BIYOC, and include authentic representations of their cultures.
- *Comfortable:* They invite BIYOC to linger in the space.
- *Flexible:* They are able to be used for a variety of purposes and by a variety of user types (individuals, small groups, classes, etc.).

Examples	Observations/Wonderings	Action Steps
<p>Affirming:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Images in the library and used in marketing the library are representative of a range of BIYOC ➤ The website includes positive and non-stereotypical images of a range of BIYOC ➤ Booklists found on the library website contain culturally relevant and authentic titles ➤ Book displays and other highlighted resources feature positive, non-stereotypical representations of diversity ➤ Youth work is prominently displayed in the library ➤ The library website contains the work of BIYOC 		

Examples	Observations/Wonderings	Action Steps
<p>Responsive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Youth have forums for making suggestions ➤ Current and relevant bulletin boards display activities and events involving diverse communities ➤ The library website connects BIYOC to resources related to their interests as well as academic topics ➤ The library website changes in response to youth feedback ➤ The library website can be accessed using mobile devices, thus recognizing the access issues many marginalized youth face <p>Welcoming:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Signage is in multiple languages and includes images that are culturally relevant ➤ The library website reflects the language and cultural diversity present in the community ➤ The library is open to families and community members ➤ Self-checkout is available <p>Respectful:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Signage uses positive language (for example, “Quiet Zone” instead of “No Talking Here”) ➤ The library has an anti-discrimination policy that is visible and enforced ➤ The space and the website is ADA compliant 		

Examples	Observations/Wonderings	Action Steps
<p>Comfortable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Comfortable seating is provided ➤ There is space available in the library for youth to “hang out” ➤ Signage, furniture, and arrangement of the library encourage visitors to linger in the space <p>Flexible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The library’s hours accommodate community members with a range of work and school schedules. ➤ A variety of work spaces are available (individual, group, loud, quiet, etc.) ➤ Some space is set aside to allow food and beverages ➤ Furniture is movable so space can be changed to accommodate youth needs 		