Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Allegheny

Community Meeting No. 3

Tuesday, October 9. 2007

Jane Dayton welcomed the community members to the second Schematic Design community meeting and introduced the architects for the project, Karen Loysen and Sallyann Kluz of Loysen + Kreuthmeier Architects (L+K).

L+K introduced the revised schematic design for the CLP Allegheny project by starting with an overview of the existing neighborhood context. This included a review of the existing buildings heights, cornice lines, window patterns, and the rhythm of the building bays, and an explanation of how the new Library building responds to each of these elements.

The revised schematic design for the project included the following changes:

- Development of the front facade rhythm to respond to the existing context;
- Adding vertical emphasis to the facade through articulation of the storefront windows and the addition of high windows;
- Developing a corner "beacon" element to anchor the building on the site and provide a strong visual landmark in the community;
- Moving the Popular Library to the west side of the plan (along Federal Street) to more closely connect the interior activity to the street.
- Developed entry to be recessed from street and include broad steps and ramp to bring patrons up into the building. Entry is more pronounced by creating a space on the street.

Comments from Community:

- Love the design changes
- Appreciate the new vertical emphasis of the building
- Good recognition of the neighboring context, including the Parkhurst Street elevation
- Love the idea of the corner "beacon" as a community landmark
- Like the idea of using stone as primary material and idea of creating a "civic" building
- Building responds much better to the neighborhood context than previous design
- "You heard what we said [at last meeting]"
- Concern raised by one community member about where people would park – "why aren't you building parking?" Majority of residents dismissed the issue and asked that the building not be compromised by additional on-site parking.