



CHARLTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

TEEN FOCUS GROUP SUMMARY REPORT 2024

FEBRUARY 14, 2024 — 3:00-4:30 PM

FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANTS = 9

1. WHAT'S THE VERY FIRST WORD YOU THINK OF WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT THE LIBRARY'S TEEN SPACE?



- Calming (2)
- Comfortable
- Cozy
- Happy
- Respectful
- Small
- Very Isolated
- Volunteer

2. WHAT COULD WE DO TO MAKE THE TEEN SPACE MORE WELCOMING?

- **Add Comfortable Furniture (9):** More comfortable seating, like bean bag chairs (8) || Add a couch or sofa.
- **Create a Dedicated Teen Space (6):** Make it a closed-off, comfortable space. (5) || Increase separation from the adults' area.
- **Enlarge the Space (2):** The computers take up too much space. You never see kids sitting there. || Make it bigger. It's too small if there are a lot of kids in it.
- **Misc. (1):** Add more color to brighten up the space. Currently, it looks very bland.

UNRELATED IDEA (1): Grow the collection of young adult books. Our selection is smaller than what's available in other libraries.

3. WHAT TYPES OF RESOURCES SHOULD WE OFFER IN THE TEEN SPACE?

- **Books and Reading-Related Materials (5):** Add more art books in the young adult section ("how to" art skills books, art around the world). || Books to help you with your homework and studies. || Core life skills development books. || Finance-related books that teach us how to buy stocks, pay taxes, balance our bank accounts, etc. || Historical books.

- **Misc. (3):** Add a table for us to use to play games and do puzzles. || Display books of the day/week/month related to a particular theme (e.g., a current or historical event). || Offer a place where teens and staff can write down book recommendations.

4. TELL US HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT THE LIBRARY'S PROGRAMS.

- 8 of the 9 participants have attended one or more Library programs.
- **Most Popular Programs (3):** Creative writing class (2) || CPR || LEGO Club
- **Least Popular Programs (0):** N/A: No one attended a program they didn't enjoy.

PROGRAM IDEAS (3): 2D Art Workshops || Computer programming/coding classes || Painting

5. HOW DO YOU PREFER TO ATTEND LIBRARY PROGRAMS?

- In-Person (9)
- Virtual with Take-It/Make-It Kits (2)
- Online/Virtual (0)

6. WHAT CURRENT ISSUES ARE IMPORTANT TO YOU?

- **Environmental Issues (2):** Deforestation || Forest Fires and Regular Fires
- **Physical and Mental Health (2)**
- **Social Justice (2):** Human Rights and Safety
- **Current Events:** "We should know what's going on around the world and different things that are happening."

WAYS LIBRARY CAN SUPPORT CAUSES (6):

- Maintain a bulletin board listing current events. (2)
- Add more books about current events.
- Coordinate a recycling program.
- Share resources that educate teens about current events and present ideas for what teens can do to support causes that are important to them.
- Sponsor a food drive.

7. WHAT TYPES OF LIBRARY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES MIGHT INTEREST YOU OR OTHER TEENS?

- **Help with Children's Programs (3):** Help with a Lego Club program. || We can do more stuff with younger kids (e.g., read stories to them). || We can help when kids do arts and crafts programs.
- Assist with an art show (help plan and support the event, set up/break down).
- Publish teens' writing or artwork. Share their creative work with the community.
- Write or record book reviews.

8. WHAT DO YOU THINK A TEEN ADVISORY GROUP SHOULD DO TO HELP THE LIBRARY BETTER SERVE YOU AND OTHER LOCAL TEENS?

- Implement new ideas and suggest new items to add to the Library (2)
- They could help design and make the new teen space.

WHAT IS THE BEST TIME FOR A TEEN ADVISORY GROUP TO MEET? (6)

- **Best Times (4):** Weekdays after 4 pm (2) || After school or in the evening || Fridays
- **Worst Days (1):** Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays

HOW SHOULD THE LIBRARY REACH OUT TO TEENS ABOUT PARTICIPATING IN A TEEN ADVISORY GROUP AND INCREASING AWARENESS OF THEIR ACTIVITIES? (6)

- Distribute flyers.
- Place posters at the Library and schools.
- Post information on a bulletin board at the Library.
- Share information on social media.

9. WHAT CAN THE LIBRARY DO TO BETTER SERVE LOCAL TEENS? WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR US?

- **Program Topics Ideas (4):** How to Choose a Career || How to Apply for Jobs || Life skills programs || SAT prep and college information programs
- Get more information from lots of teens about what they want or need from the Library.
- Hold a monthly event focused on attracting teens, like a video game contest or art show.
- Offering food at programs will attract more teens.
- Offer prizes with activities. Incentivize teens to participate.