

December 28, 2020

**City of Mesa
Design Review Board**

**Project:
City of Mesa
Dobson Ranch Library Addition and Exterior Improvements
2425 South Dobson
Mesa, Arizona**

Case No: PRS20-00414

Project Description

The proposed addition to the Dobson Ranch Library will provide space for a new ThinkSpot Business Incubator, Maker Space, Studio and storage for the new programs. This project also includes exterior renovations to the existing façade and hardscape adjacent to the addition.

The attached submittal for Design Review Board consideration includes a new one-story, approx. 1,761 SF building addition to be located in the currently zoned Public and Semi-Public District (PS) with a Planned Area Development (PAD) overlay. Per the City of Mesa 2040 General Plan, the site is designated as Neighborhood Character Type with a Suburban sub-type.

The location of the addition was selected to provide more accessibility to the new functional spaces being integrated into the facility. At the same time the addition is presented as an opportunity to attract more attention to the building.

The current bermed and screened front elevation is understated and does not provide the visual impact the City desires to promote the facility to the public. The stated goal of the City Manager was to create a stronger sense of entry for the Library using architectural elements and signage.

The proposed exterior improvements frame the existing breezeway and draw patrons towards the entrance, which is not visible for the street. The exterior finish selections integrate with the existing concrete exterior but add some color to the current monotone façade. Metal panels on the new addition will highlight the new space and contain the City of Mesa logo coordinated colors. This high metal panel wall also allows for exterior signage as vehicles approach the building from the west. Perforated metal panels will be added on the Northwest side of the exterior that will provide shade and create a courtyard area that is pedestrian friendly, inviting and engaging. The goal in selecting materials is to incorporate easily maintainable items that coordinate with the existing concrete structure and adds some inviting color. The color palette coordinates with the City of Mesa logo as well as provides durability and long life.



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The perforated panels also provide a frame for new signage to identify the library building. New lighted and colored letters utilize the Library's color palette to display the name for both daytime and evening activities.

Taking the advice of the Design Review Board, exterior columns supporting the canopy have been changed to poured in place concrete to match the original columns.

The intersection metal panels and perforated panels have also been revised to provide horizontal and vertical reveals where panels meet.

Landscape materials were selected that will blend with the exterior color palette and support programs offered by the Library that attract butterfly pollinators. The Landscape Architect noted in regard to Board Member Placko's recommendation for Swan Hill Olive, that it is no longer grown commercially and difficult to procure.

Outdoor spaces will also support programs offered by the Library. A shaded canopy along the new addition will allow for outdoor programs to be conducted by staff while maintaining visual supervision from the library space. Due to the variety of programs to be offered outdoor spaces are designed to be flexible. Loose seating is proposed to facilitate varying group sizes and seating arrangements.