

**Cultural & Arts Advisory Committee Meeting  
Agenda**

Monday, May 28, 2018, 7:00 pm  
Tecumseh Town Hall  
[www.tecumseh.ca](http://www.tecumseh.ca)

**Pages**

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest**
4. **Delegations**
5. **Communications**
6. **Reports**
7. **Unfinished Business**
  - a. Soirée Coffee House Wrap Up
  - b. Street Name Recognition 2 - 7
  - c. Feather Sculptures Update
8. **New Business**
  - a. Cada Library Complex Renovations 8 - 34
9. **Next Meeting**
10. **Adjournment**

# TECUMSEH'S FIRST MAYOR

OUR FIRST MAYOR 1921 to 1924  
COL. PAUL POISSON M.D.; K.S.G.

by Wm. Teno

There's a certain uniqueness in having the first mayor of Tecumseh help celebrate our 50th birthday. Unique in the sense that, at 84 years of age, after an entire lifetime devoted to serving people, his longevity and health still enables Dr. Paul to 'dwell amongst us' — to relive and review with nostalgia those humble beginnings. The only other living member of his council, during his third and fourth years, with whom he can share remembrances, is Mr. Edmond Drouillard, proprietor of Drouillard's Hardware.

Our first mayor was born in Belle River 1887; but he soon left the farm to pursue high-school studies in Windsor from 1900-1905 — where "the farm-boy with the high marks" immediately proceeded to take home all the trophies and hardware from the local teenagers — much to their chagrin. Apparently high-school studies weren't enough to keep this energetic young man busy; he joined the military unit in Windsor as a private in 1904 at age 17 — a "soldier" association he was to honour and cherish the rest of his life.

A vocation toward the healing arts put him on the train to London, and after four more years of intense study he graduated with honours from Western University in 1909 as a full-fledged Doctor of Medicine — the realization of another boyhood dream. We think it was while he was interning at St. Joseph Hospital in London that he met his first Waterloo — a sweet young nurse named Gertrude Connor. In the sweat and toil of establishing himself; first as an assistant in Essex, then a short term in Port Arthur with Dr. MacGready, he decided to hang a permanent M.D. shingle in Tecumseh on Oct. 16, 1910 — then he married the 'sweet young nurse' in 1911.

Another facet of his life emerged at this time — the urge to serve the community; and we see Dr. Paul sitting as a councillor for 2 years (1912-1913) in the old Township of Sandwich East. However, Kaiser Bill and his war rumblings across the sea were to delay any further political aspirations for another eight years. By this time he had advanced to Lieutenant in the Army Medical Corps, and he left Canada with the first contingent of 33 ships as Medical Officer to the Engineers. An oddity occurs here: after a training session at Folkestone England, he landed in France on Feb. 14, 1915 and left France four years later on the same day Feb. 14, 1919. We wonder if he remembered, as dutiful husbands do, to send his 'sweet young nurse' a Valentine on both occasions.

Destiny is an awesome thing. He suffered a shrapnel wound during the Courcellette campaign in 1915; but two of his men walking alongside died as a result of the same shrapnel burst. Destiny is indeed an awesome thing. Honours came to the young Doctor with a promotion from Captain to Major, and a decoration at Buckingham Palace by King George V in 1916. With hostilities over, he returned to medical practice in Tecumseh, and dug deep into the life of the community. Always a religious man, a heritage coursing through the entire Poisson family, to mention the numerous lay societies and charitable organizations to which he gave time and energies spanning a



lifetime would be superfluous. It suffices to mention only the 'topping on the cake', for the years of devotion to his faith and leadership in various religious, educational, and bilingual groups. It came in 1956 in the form of an investiture at St. Peter's Cathedral in London by Bishop Cody where he was invested with the Order of St. Gregory (K.S.G.) — one of the highest honours that can be bestowed upon a layman by the Catholic Church.

In the Windsor area, being completely fluent in both languages is a definite asset — none more so than in the political arena. Oh Yes! Dr. Paul loved a good clean fight! And in those depression years he ran into a few dandies! "When the Queen's Park bug bites — it bites good". So after his initial four years experience as First Mayor of Tecumseh, the political wings broadened and we find Dr. Paul winning the Sandwich East seat in the Ontario Legislature (1926) under the Conservative banner — then rose to Cabinet stature in 1931-1934 as Minister without portfolio.

As the years grew shorter another war became more imminent, and from 1940 to 1945 Dr. Paul turned to 'soldiering' for the last time — as President Medical Board M.D. No. 1, at Medical Headquarters Ottawa, as Officer Commanding Montreal Military Hospital. He resigned from the army in 1945 after serving 41 years — and in every rank from private to colonel. He then accepted an appointment as Registrar of Deeds for Essex County (retiring from this in 1959), and slowly began to phase out the medical practice begun back in 1909.

What an amazing diversity of careers — all oriented toward a 'desire for serving people'. Dr. Paul raised a family of 8 children — and now enjoys the unctious, ructions, and rambunctious of 36 more grandchildren, and 10 more great grandchildren. We remember with gaiety his 50th wedding anniversary at the French-Canadian Club 10 years ago, and we remember with sadness the passing of his 'sweet young nurse' a year ago last March.

We're proud to have you with us Dr. Paul. May you continue in good health, good humour, and good cheer.

TECUMSEH'S FIRST MAYOR 1921-1924 -

Col. Paul Poisson M.D.K.S.G.

PAUL POISSON was born in Belle River, July 25th, 1887, son of Damase Poisson and Helene Diesbourg. He attended primary school in Belle River and completed his secondary education in 1905 at Patterson Collegiate in Windsor. He received a degree in medicine in 1909 from Western University in London. Dr. Poisson established a medical practice in Tecumseh on October 16th, 1910, a practice which endured until the late 1950's. He was appointed coroner in 1913 and chosen president of the Essex County Medical Society in 1927.

A keen interest in politics led Dr. Poisson to serve as councillor for the Township of Sandwich East in 1912-1913. In 1914, he enlisted in the military service and spent four years in France. He was awarded the Military Cross and promoted to the rank of major. Upon his return to Tecumseh, after the war, DR. POISSON renewed his involvement in the political arena. He became Tecumseh's first mayor in 1921 and held that position until 1924. In 1926, DR. POISSON was elected to the Ontario Legislature and became Minister without portfolio from 1931 until 1934.

In addition to his medical practice, DR. POISSON was involved in many service organizations and fraternal societies. Most often in

of leadership. During the Second World War , DR. POISSON served as President of the Medical Board at headquarters in Ottawa and later as commanding officer at the Montreal Military Hospital. He resigned from the army in 1945 after serving 41 years in every rank from private to colonel. From 1945 until 1959, DR. POISSON was the Registrar of Deeds for Essex County and gradually retired from his active medical practice.

DR. POISSON was totally committed to his community and to the church. In recognition of his faith and Christian leadership, DR. POISSON was invested as a Knight of St. Gregory-K.S.G. in 1956, by Bishop Cody - the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a layman in the Catholic Church. DR. POISSON married Gertrude Connor in 1911, and together they raised a family of eight children. DR. POISSON passed away in 1982.

The Royal Canadian Legion in Tecumseh honored DR. POISSON by naming their organization the Colonel Paul Poisson Branch 261. The Town of Tecumseh recognized Dr. Paul Poisson's many achievements and years of dedicated service in the community by naming Poisson Street in his honor.



## Christina Hebert

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**From:** Marian Drouillard  
**Sent:** May-21-18 8:47 AM  
**Subject:** George Hayes

Good morning all,

A few weeks ago, I searched the archives folder and extracted this about George Hayes. Assuming that Hayes Ave in St Clair Beach had indeed been named after George Hayes, an elected Reeve, then this street could be deserving of the Veteran designation. Mr Hayes served in the Canadian Army in WW2 as a Sergeant in the Canadian Medical Corps. I could not find any information about the actual naming of the street however....

Thanks,  
Marian



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assumed the Reeveship in 1944 and continued on in that capacity until 1945.

*Reeve Victor Cada*

## Clarence Robinson

Clarence Robinson became the village's Reeve for the year 1946 and was replaced with yet another of Jean-B. Cada's sons, Thomas who accepted the responsibility and served as Reeve until 1949.

*Clarence Robinson*

## Thomas Cada

Thomas Cada was an extremely ambitious man, and was the recently deceased Reeve Fred Cada's father. Thomas Cada was a skilled administrator, having held several key government positions, such as Senior Inspector of Weights and Measures in Windsor and District Inspector, London Division,

*Reeve Thomas Cada*

for the Ministry of Commerce. He had served on Windsor's Welfare Board as well as on the city's Separate School Board. Thomas Cada served as Reeve in the year 1947 and again in 1949.

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## St.Clair Beach Story 75 Year Celebration 1914-89

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Zoom tool

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County and the procurement of a historical 1951 International Fire Truck also instrumental in inviting our first physician Dr. M. Daniel to set up practice here. His practice continues today.

Some of George's many accomplishments included the procurement of government grants for flood assistance in 1952; and having a Resolution passed by Essex County Council calling for a Provincial probe to investigate irregularities in county road construction.

During and subsequent to his term, George represented the Village as a Commissioner for a period of 30 years.

## Fred Cada

Fred Cada became involved in the community for seven years before assuming Reeveship in 1960. Acclaimed, because everyone knew that he was the right man for the job, Fred gave new meaning to the responsibility of the office,

*Dr. M. Daniel*



# refresh/renovate

January 17, 2018



Essex County Library, Tecumseh Branch  
**Concept Design**





## option: refresh

### summary of Changes

- new furniture
- new carpeting and floor tile
- walls painted

study area

washrooms

(unchanged or new single universal)

staff area

circulation desk

program room

children's area

main entrance

shelving 60" h.

computers

book return

### notes for this option

- existing layout unchanged
- existing two public washrooms – two options
  - change finishes only;
  - combine two washrooms into single accessible washroom
- main entrance unchanged;
- former council room elevated area remains or removed;

January 17, 2018

**floor plan**





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computer area





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**lounge & study areas**





January 17, 2018

children's area





January 17, 2018

existing building & site photographs



new book return

new staff area

new opening to corridor

new enlarged accessible washrooms &  
new universal washroom

new shelving 60" h.

new opening  
to corridor

updated  
program room

new enlarged door & windows

new lounge area

update children's area

new lounge area

new teen area

## option: renovate

new windows

new information desk

update computer area

updated open study area

new lounge area

new quiet study rooms

new fireplace lounge area

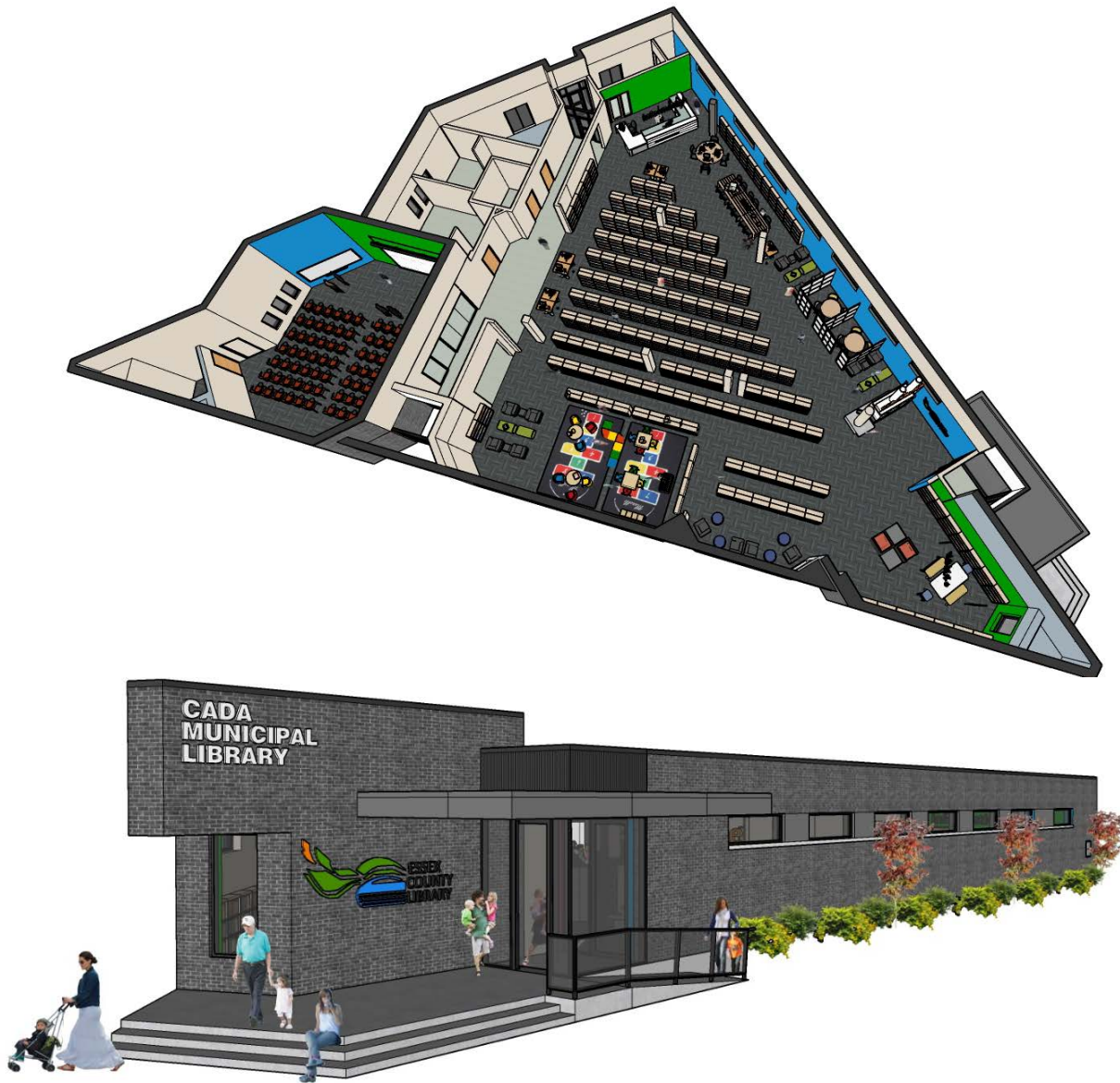
new entrance area

new main entrance

new windows

floor plan

January 17, 2018



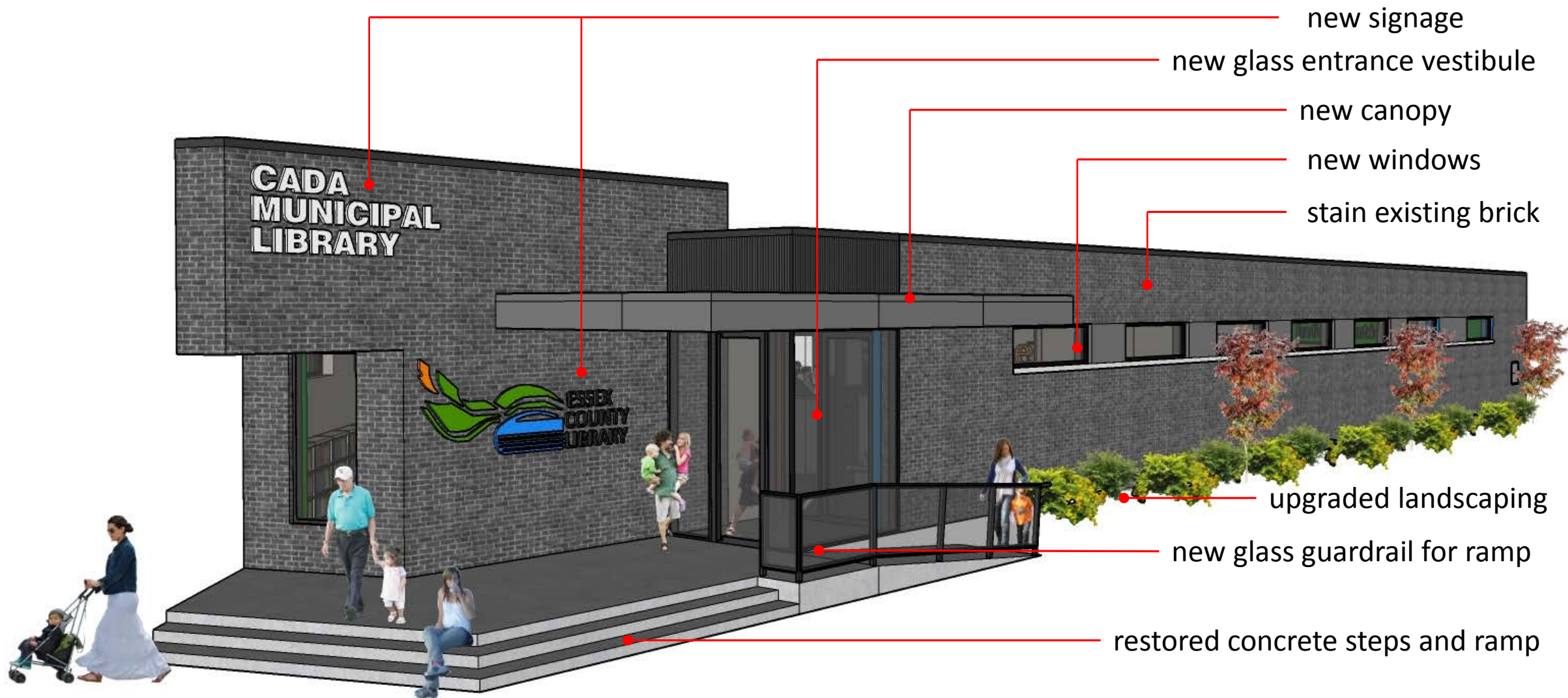
## summary of major changes

- new furniture
- new carpeting and floor tile
- walls painted
- new wayfinding signage
- new staff area and book return
- redesigned layout for entire building
- larger, barrier free, washrooms to accommodate occupant load
- new universal washroom
- new quiet study rooms
- new main entrance with direct access to main parking lot
- direct access to additional parking at rear of building
- upgraded program room for multi-use purposes
- program room opened up to library area through new wall opening and larger door opening with glazing
- relocated information desk for enhanced supervision and access to entrances/exits
- new clerestory windows providing natural lighting for general library space, information and teen areas
- new teen area with speciality seating
- updated children area
- better integration of existing corridor with general library area
- new lounge areas with soft seating in various locations

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**option: renovate | summary of major changes**





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exterior perspective

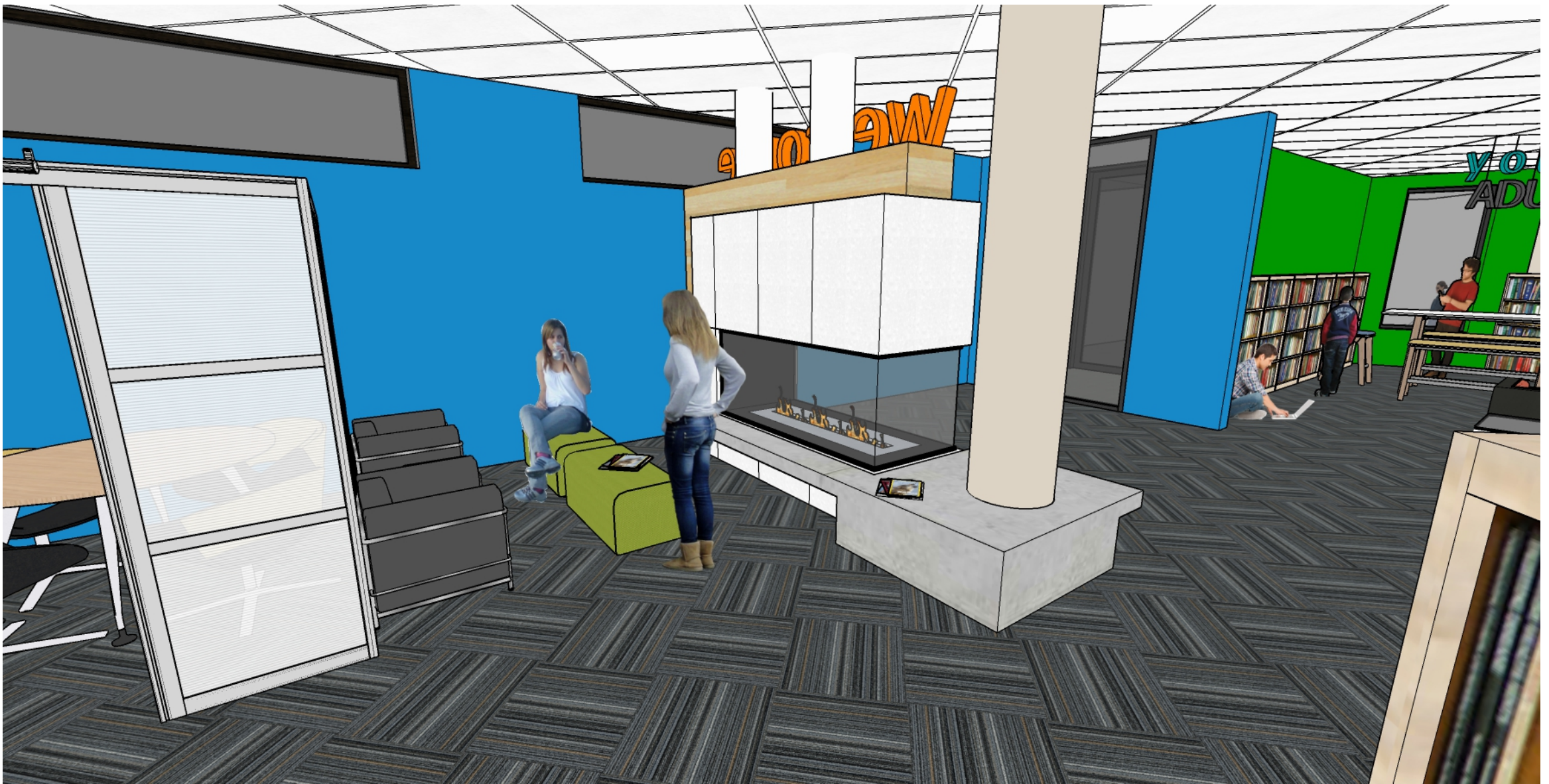




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view from new main entrance

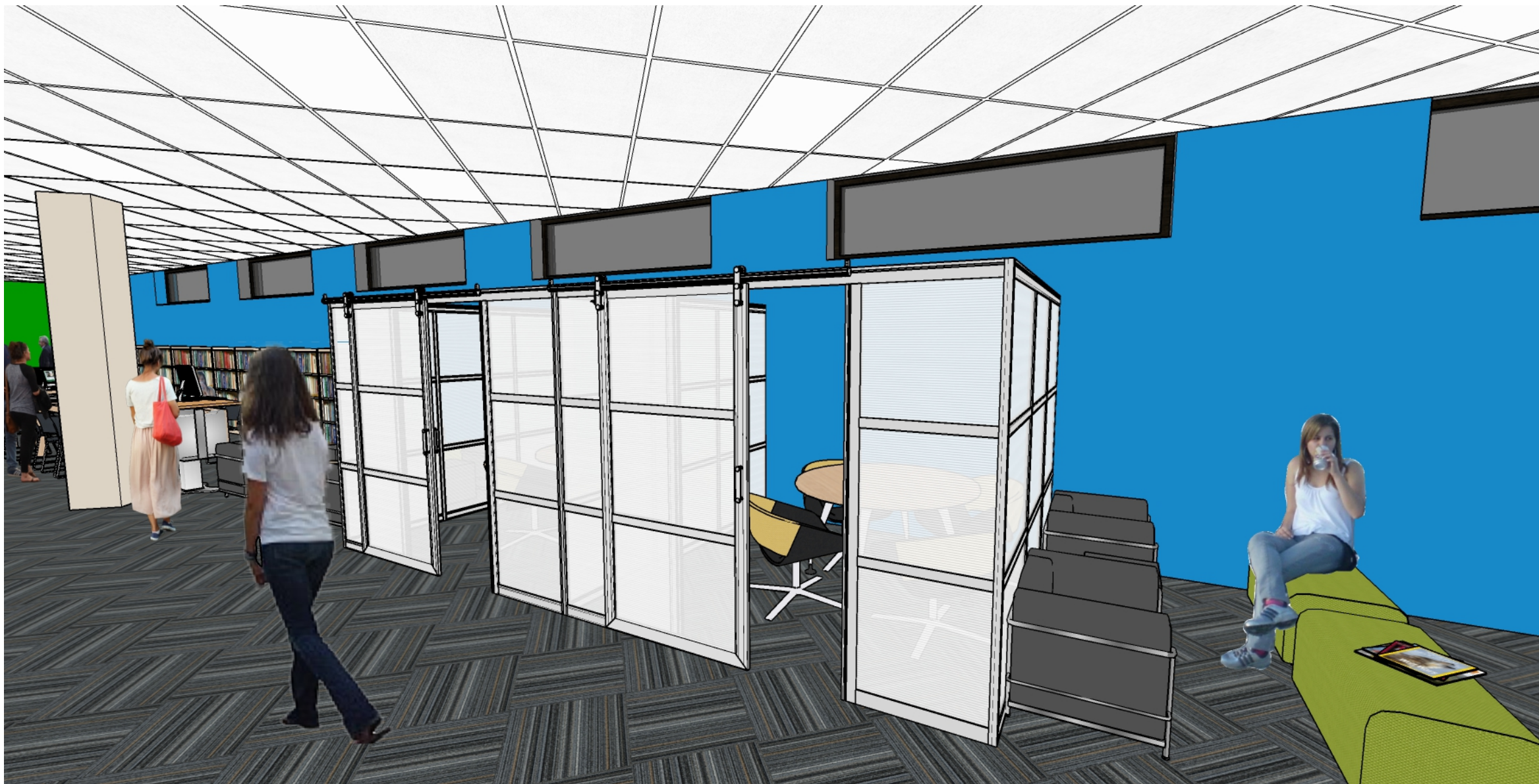




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fireplace lounge area

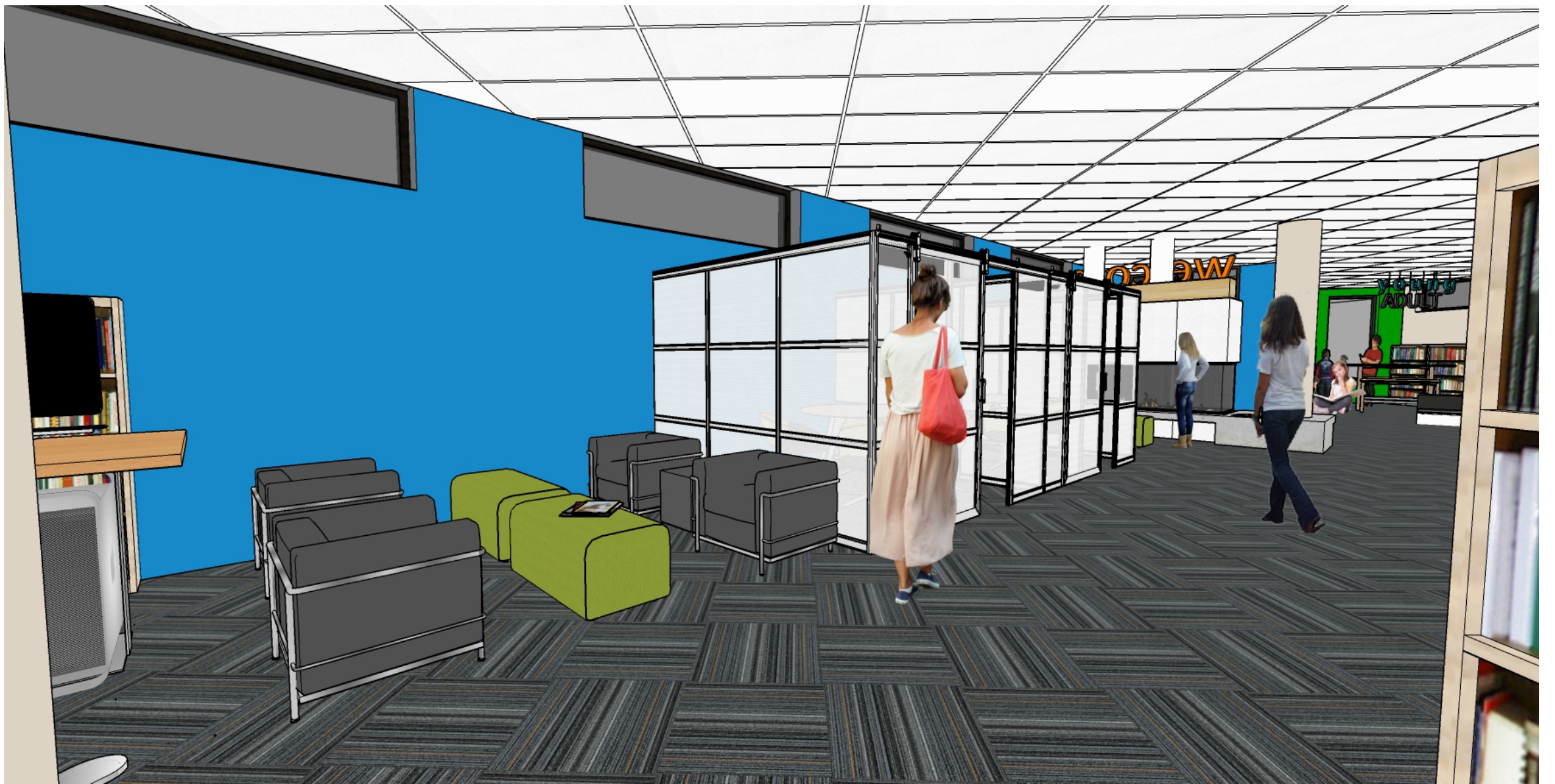




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quiet study rooms





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**lounge area**





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**new information desk, open study & computer areas**





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children's area & parents lounge





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teen area





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view from secondary entrance & new information desk





January 17, 2018

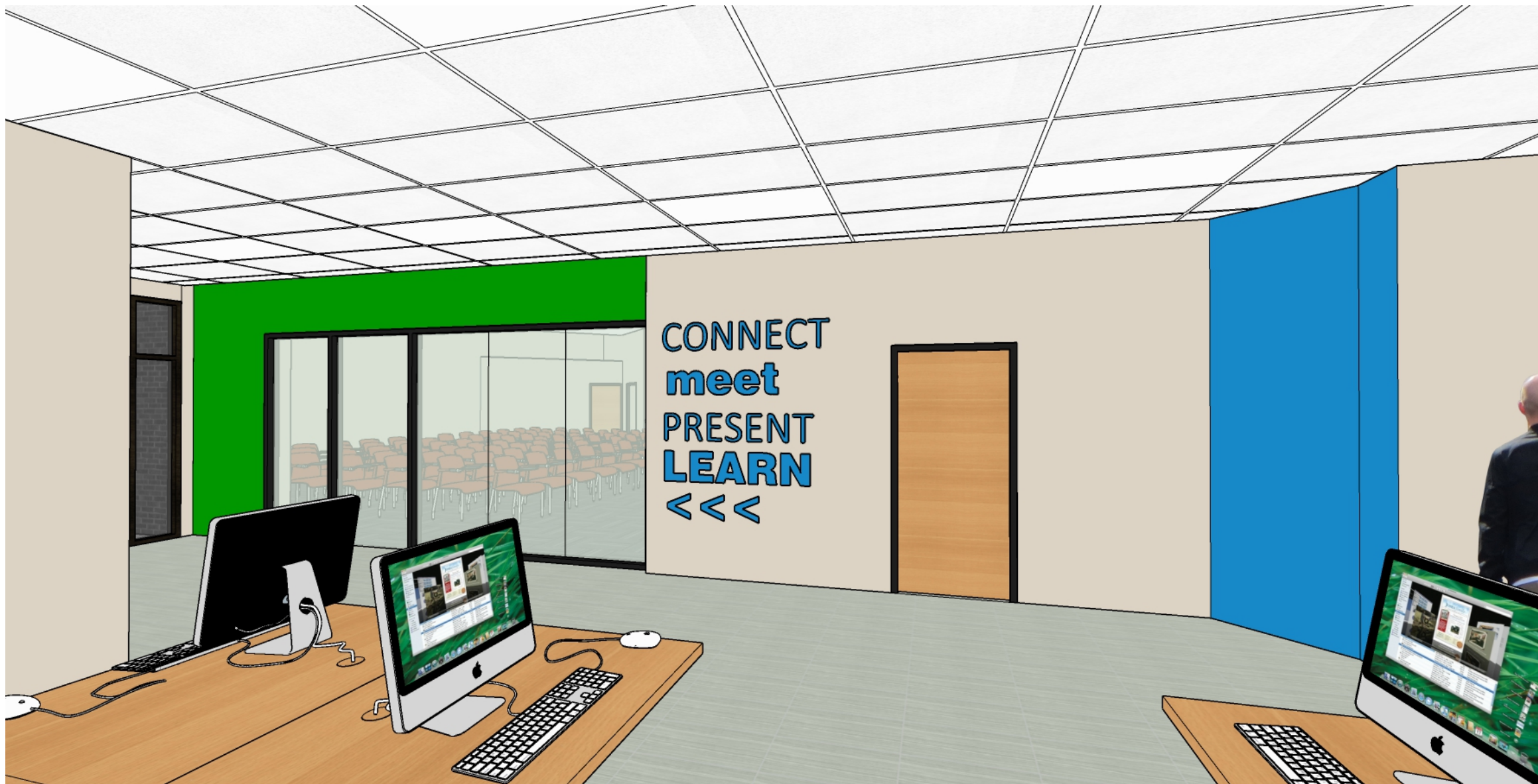
**new information desk**





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view from existing main corridor



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view to program room from library area





January 17, 2018

multi-use program room





before



after

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exterior view comparison

option: **refresh** | construction value

scope of work	estimated cost
paint all spaces	\$19,050.00
new Flooring (carpet & tile)	\$95,250.00
remove elevated floor from Program Room (includes renovations to finishes following removal of elevated floor)	\$40,000.00
replace windows	\$60,000.00
replace finishes & fixtures in washrooms or convert to single universal washroom	\$20,000.00
subtotal	\$234,300.00
recommend contingency (20%)	\$46,860.00
<b>grand total (hst excluded)</b>	<b>\$281,160.00</b>

option: **renovate** | construction value

scope of work	estimated cost
new main entrance & canopy	\$20,000.00
upgrade exterior facades (new aluminum composite metal panels & stained brick)	\$171,000.00
upgrade exterior landscaping	\$20,000.00
extensive interior renovations includes painting, flooring, ceilings, lighting, windows, doors, washrooms, mechanical, plumbing and electrical systems	\$880,000.00
subtotal	\$1,096,000.00
recommend contingency (20%)	\$219,200.00
<b>grand total (hst excluded)</b>	<b>\$1,315,200.00</b>

Note: The values indicated above represent the estimated cost of construction only and does not included furniture, furnishings or equipment.

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order of magnitude budget

# Distribution of Cost – Past Projects

Year	Municipality	Municipal Contribution	ECLB Contribution
2014	Lakeshore – Atlas Tube Centre	\$2.2 million of total 62 million (construction costs) Design, engineering, construction and finishes (carpet, lighting, wall covering...), electrical, utility installation	\$323,769.12 equipment, furnishings, computer hardware and installation
2014	Lakeshore - Woodslee	\$640,000 of total \$2.4 million (construction costs) Design, engineering, construction and finishes (carpet, lighting, wall covering...), electrical, utility installation	\$97,381.93 equipment, furnishings, computer hardware and installation

Year	Municipality	Municipal Contribution	ECLB Contribution
2014	LaSalle	\$3.7 million of a total \$12.3 million (construction costs) Design, engineering, construction and finishes (carpet, lighting, wall covering...), electrical, utility installation	\$355,832.93 equipment, furnishings, computer hardware and installation
2011	Essex	purchase and renovation cost of Essex Branch – Essex Community Centre. Cost included design, engineering, construction and finishes (carpet, lighting, wall covering...), electrical, utility installation	\$146,803.92 equipment, furnishings, computer hardware and installation
2010	Kingsville	\$1,667,000 purchase and renovation cost of the Highline Branch Kingsville. Cost included construction and finishes (carpet, lighting, wall covering...) electrical and utility installation	\$296,406.61 equipment, furnishings, computer hardware and installation

# Distribution of Cost – Current Projects

Year	Municipality	Municipal Contribution	ECLB Contribution
2018 - 2019	Leamington	Estimated \$900,000 + Design, engineering, construction and finishes (carpet, lighting, wall covering...), electrical, utility installation	Est. \$350,000 - \$400,000 equipment, furnishings, computer hardware and installation
	Tecumseh	Est. \$281,160 - \$1,315,200 Design, engineering, construction and finishes (carpet, lighting, wall covering...), electrical, utility installation	Est. \$350,000 - \$400,000 equipment, furnishings, computer hardware and installation

# Essex County Library – project proposal

The Essex County Library Board proposes to the Town of Tecumseh that they enter into an agreement to refresh/renovate the Cada Library Branch. Whereby the town will contribute to the capital upgrades to the facility and the Board will contribute to the installation of new equipment, furnishings and computer hardware to meet the service needs of the community.