

What we heard

Alexander Community Centre addition and renovation

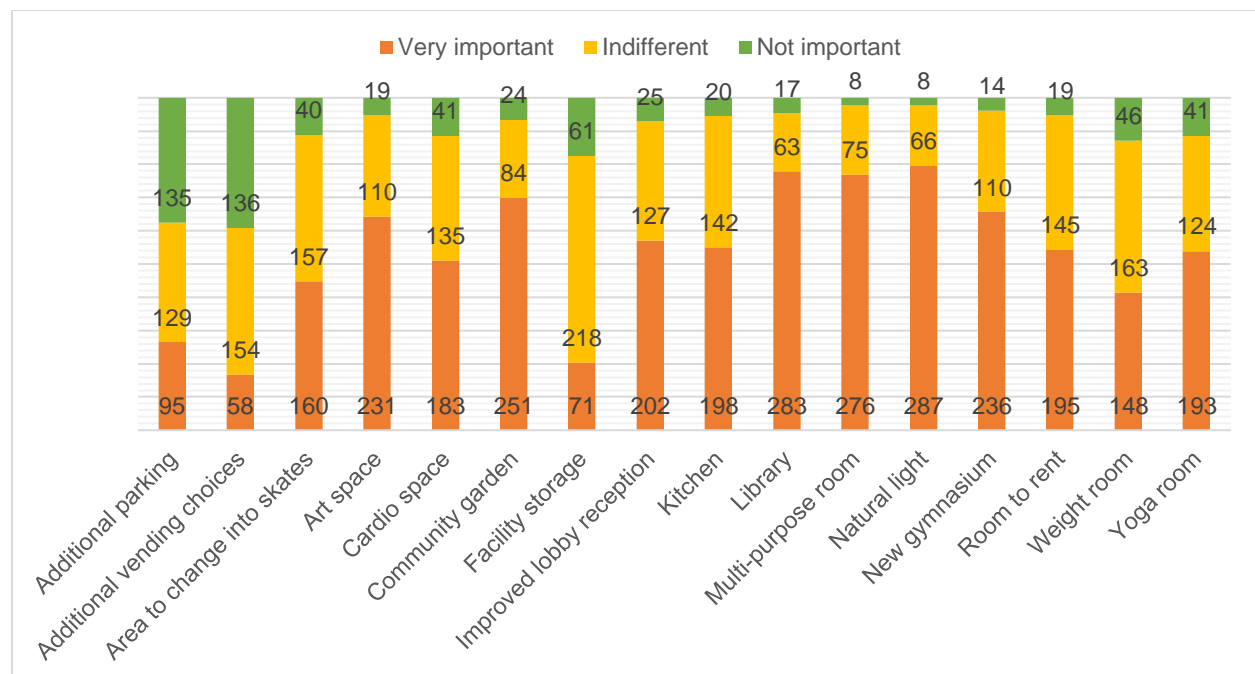
Thank you to everyone who responded to our survey about renovating and building an addition to the Alexander Community Centre.

More than 300 residents completed the survey, with most respondents representing more than one person from a household or community group. Respondents use the community centre regularly, occasionally or not all.

Respondents who do not use the community centre feel that the programs do not suit their needs and are primarily for young children, and there isn't enough information on programs for other demographics. They may also use a different community centre or be new to the community.

Ranking features

Respondents ranked the importance of proposed features. An art space, community garden, improved lobby and reception area, library, multi-purpose room, natural light and new gymnasium were ranked as very important. They will be considered in the design.



Additional features

Respondents suggested additional features:

- Outdoor:** New pool, new splash pad, drinking fountain, dog shower, off-leash dog area, improved seating and gathering space, tennis or racquetball court, exterior lighting, more trees, skateboard, scooter and BMX area, outdoor exercise circuit for teens and adults, outdoor track, warming hut for skaters,

bulletin board for announcements, bicycle racks, more play structures, more waste receptacles, flower garden, free play space.

- **Indoor:** New pool, steam room, sauna, improved kitchen with space for 20 people, improved gathering space, squash courts, environmentally friendly and sustainable elements such as a green roof and living wall, indoor-outdoor connections, more street appeal, flexible room spaces and sizes, modernization and accessibility upgrades, better audiovisual equipment, wifi, maker space and tools such as 3D printers, improved washrooms and changerooms, diverse space sizes, music studio, greenhouse, sprung dance floor, indoor walking track.
- **Programming:** Adult, senior and toddler programming, gymnastics, dance, Councillor's office, tool library, community policing, community events, homework club, youth and adult day care, social activities, art programs, open kitchen for people to cook together and cooking classes, food bank, soccer, recreational skating, outdoor education, farmers' and craft markets, coding workshops, basketball, floor hockey league, EarlyON child and family centre, sports equipment sign out, organized sports, better communication of programs and events, art programs, board games, capacity as an emergency centre, rotating art display, musical instruments, free programs, senior services, language programs, cultural programs, cheaper programs and room rentals.

Building a new library

Respondents said that having a library branch in the community centre would increase their use of the Ottawa Public Library. The ability to borrow books, access wifi and have children's programs were rated as important.

Barriers to access the library

Respondents said there were no barriers that prevented them from using the community centre, though the following features would improve access:

- Larger parking spaces and more parking.
- Better visibility and lighting.
- Winter clearing of pathways.
- Improved exterior paths and pedestrian access.
- Sidewalks in the community.
- Better public transportation.

What respondents like about the community centre

Respondents like the convenient location and staff. They like that the community centre is a gathering space with affordable room rentals, a wading pool, playing fields, a multi-purpose room, skating rink, bike repair station and new playground equipment. They like that there is programming for all ages, including children's camps, after-school care, a bouncy house and free play on Saturdays, yoga and the GAP program. Respondents feel the community centre has potential because it is welcoming and the community is diverse.

What respondents dislike about the community centre

Respondents feel the community centre is uninviting because it is small, old, run down, outdated, dull and in need of renovation. The space constraints and aging infrastructure contribute to its lack of programming, barriers to accessibility and cluttered feeling.

Next steps

The focus of this project is the building rather than the exterior spaces and programming. The information we learned from the survey will inform the building design.