



San Francisco Public Library  
**CHINATOWN HIM MARK LAI BRANCH LIBRARY RENOVATION**  
COMMUNITY MEETING | May 10, 2022



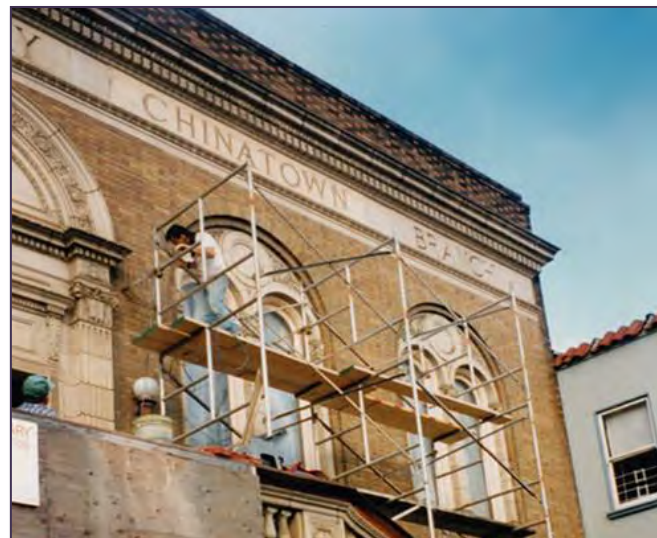
*San Francisco Public Library*



# WELCOME!

- Welcome and Introductions
- Chinatown Branch History
- Community Engagement
- Guiding Principles
- Project Features
- Upcoming

# Chinatown Branch History



- 1921 Opens as North Beach Branch
- 1958 Renamed Chinatown Branch
- 1996 Seismic renovation completed
- 2002 Designated San Francisco Landmark
- 2011 Renamed Chinatown /Him Mark Lai Branch

# GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Libraries for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century
- Flexible and Adaptable Building Designs
- Preservation of Historic Carnegie Libraries
- Multifunctional Community Program Areas
- Transparency and Ease of Wayfinding

# Community Engagement

- 2018 Branch Capital Projects Feasibility Study
- 2019 Community Meetings
- 2021 e-Newsletter and Survey

Survey results, minutes, and newsletter available at  
[www.sfpl.org/chinatown-renovation](http://www.sfpl.org/chinatown-renovation)

# PROJECT FEATURES

## GROUND FLOOR

- Enlarge the Community Room to create a 100-person multi-functional space
- Reopen the historic entry to the Community Room and provide access from the sidewalk
- Create a Gallery / Display Area at the Entry

# PROJECT FEATURES

## MAIN FLOOR

- Remove the steel trusswork, and mezzanine floor to restore the Historic Reading Room
- New concealed structure at historic building
- Create a dedicated Teen Area
- Create enclosed Study Rooms
- Add restroom(s)



# PROJECT FEATURES

## MEZZANINE

- Renew Staff Break Area
- Create new Staff Work Room



# PROJECT FEATURES

## BUILDING GENERAL

- Repair the historic brick façade and entry steps
- Provide a new interior stair that connects entire building
- Build a new single elevator serving all floors

# PROJECT FEATURES

## **BUILDING GENERAL continued**

- New lighting throughout
- New building security system throughout
- More electrical outlets for charging devices
- WIFI throughout
- Laptop lending both floors

# PROJECT FEATURES

## ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCY

- Replace all heating and air conditioning systems
- Air condition the entire building
- Provide enhanced air filtration throughout
- Provide additional cooling at the Community Room for weather relief cooling center



# PROJECT FEATURES

## **ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCY continued**

- Provide rooftop solar energy system and battery back-up systems
- Comply with city electrification ordinance
- Building will be “electrified” meaning that only electrically operated equipment will be provided – no natural gas
- Building will use renewable power only





## Chinatown Branch then...





...and now  
**CURRENT READING ROOM**

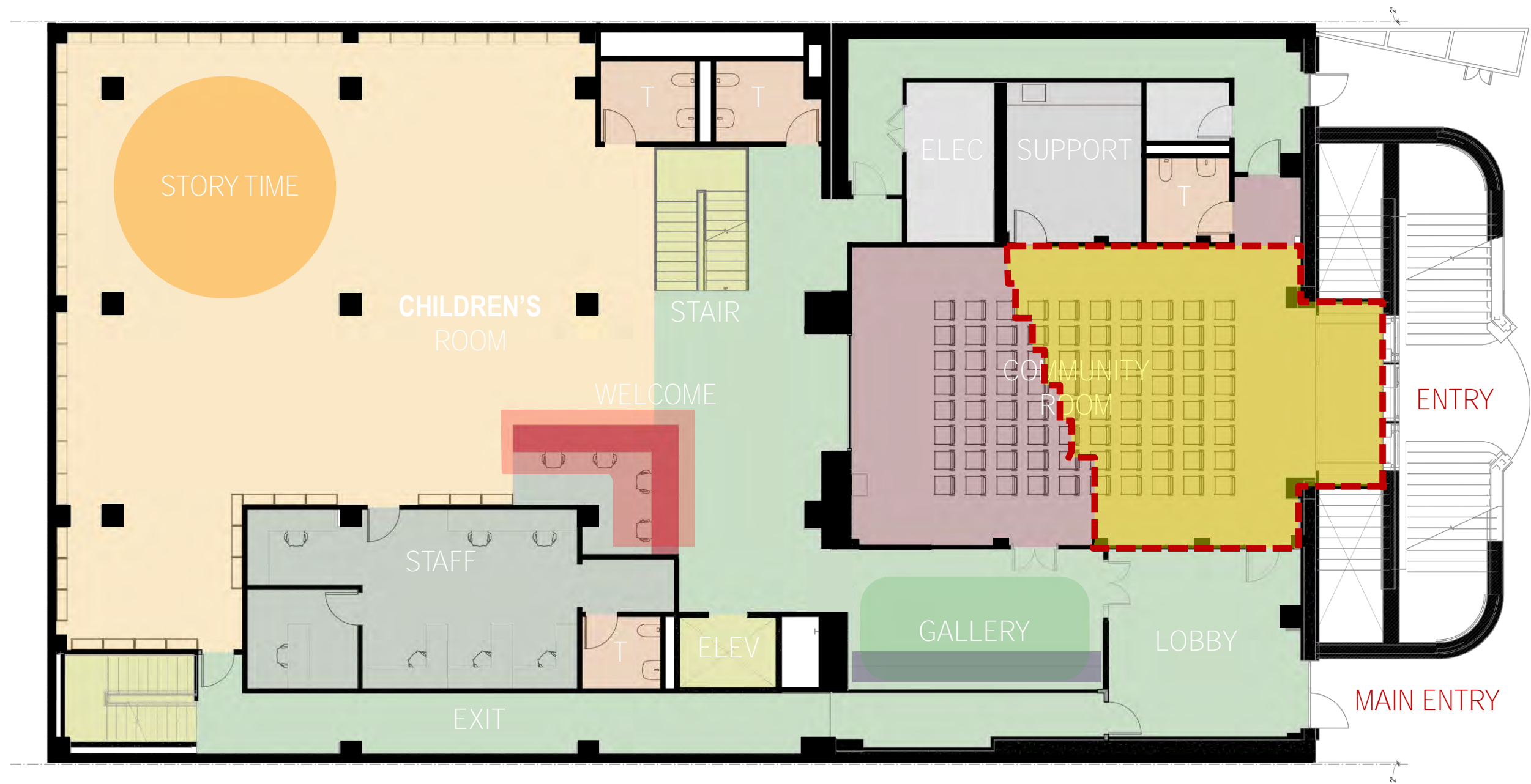






# PRELIMINARY PLANS





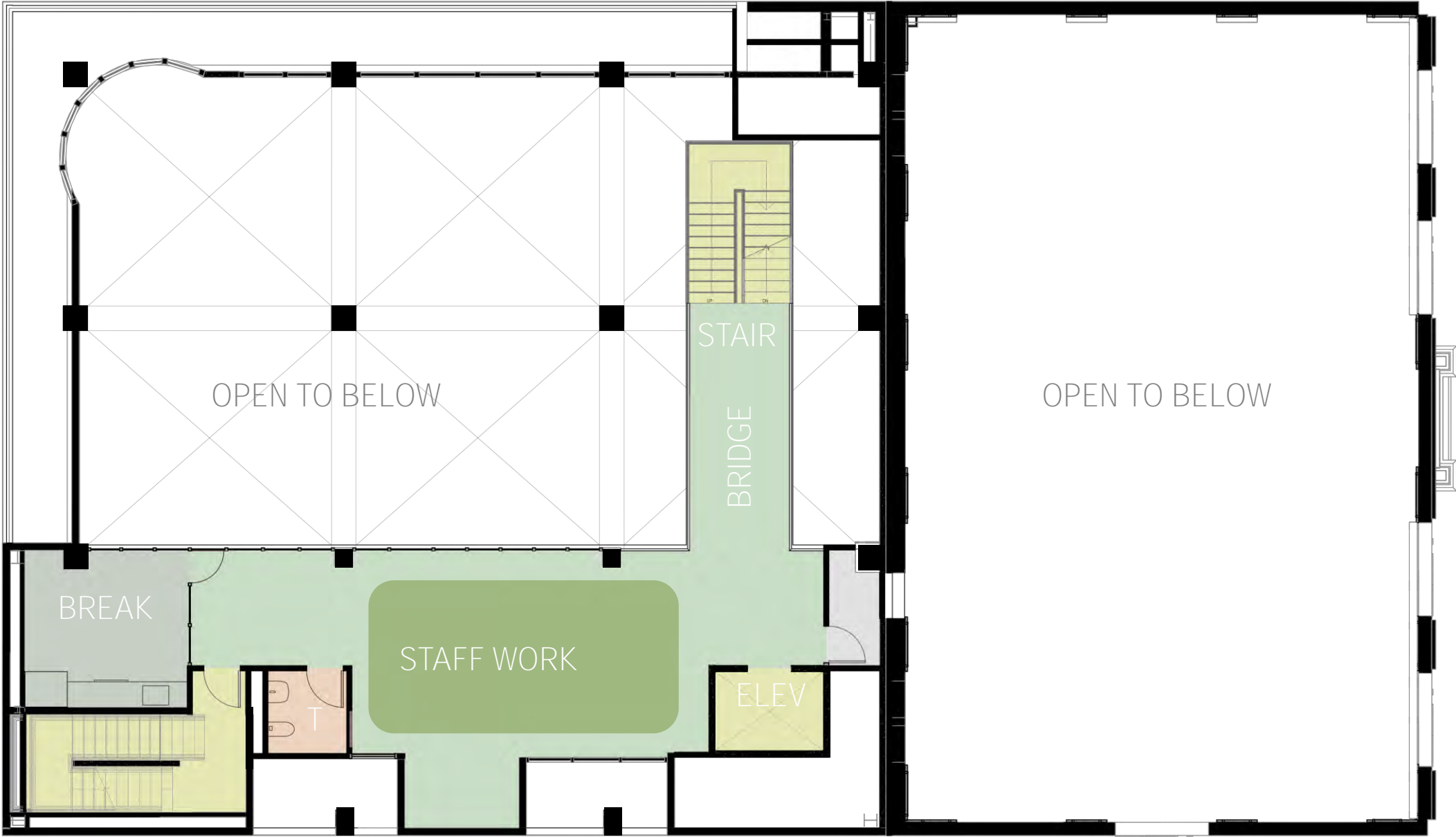
GROUND FLOOR PLAN





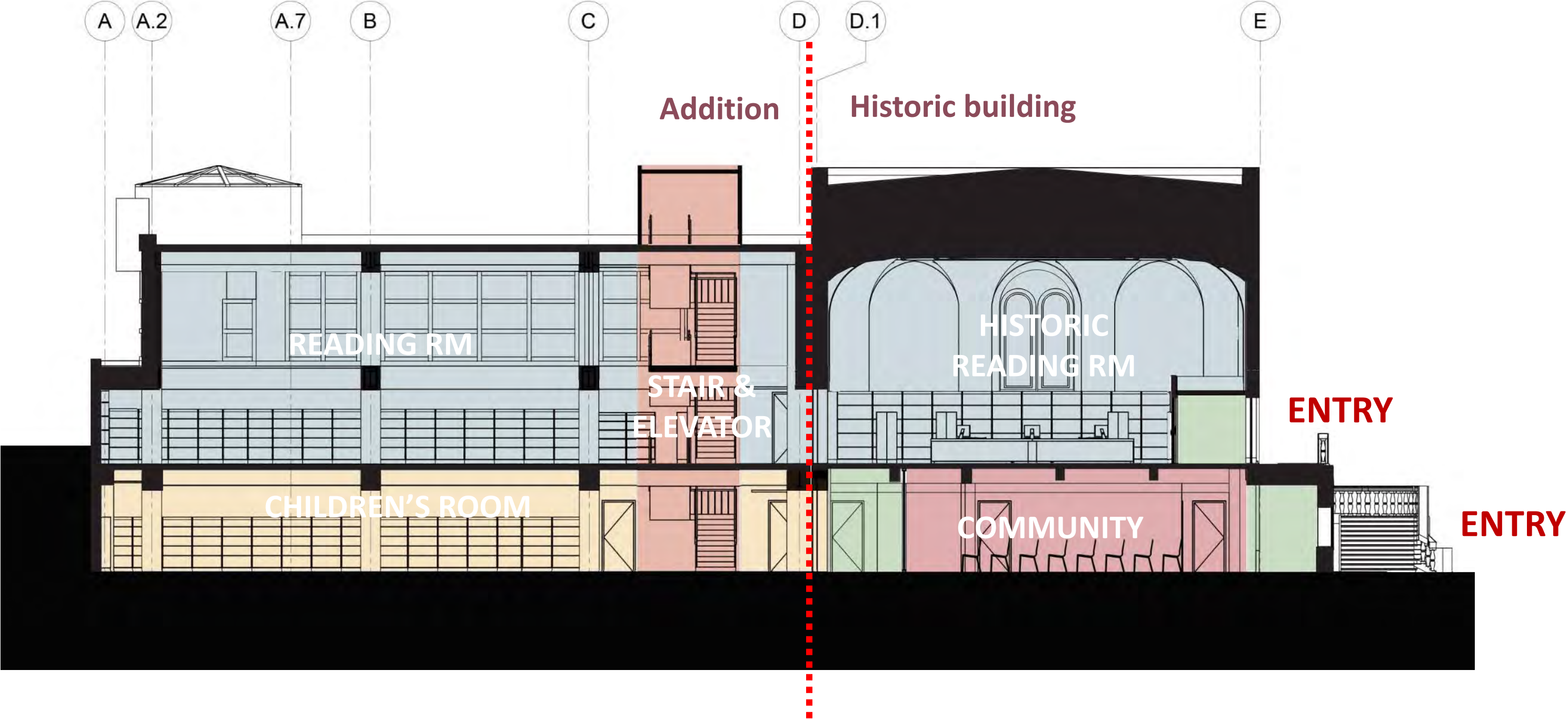
## MAIN FLOOR PLAN

**A**



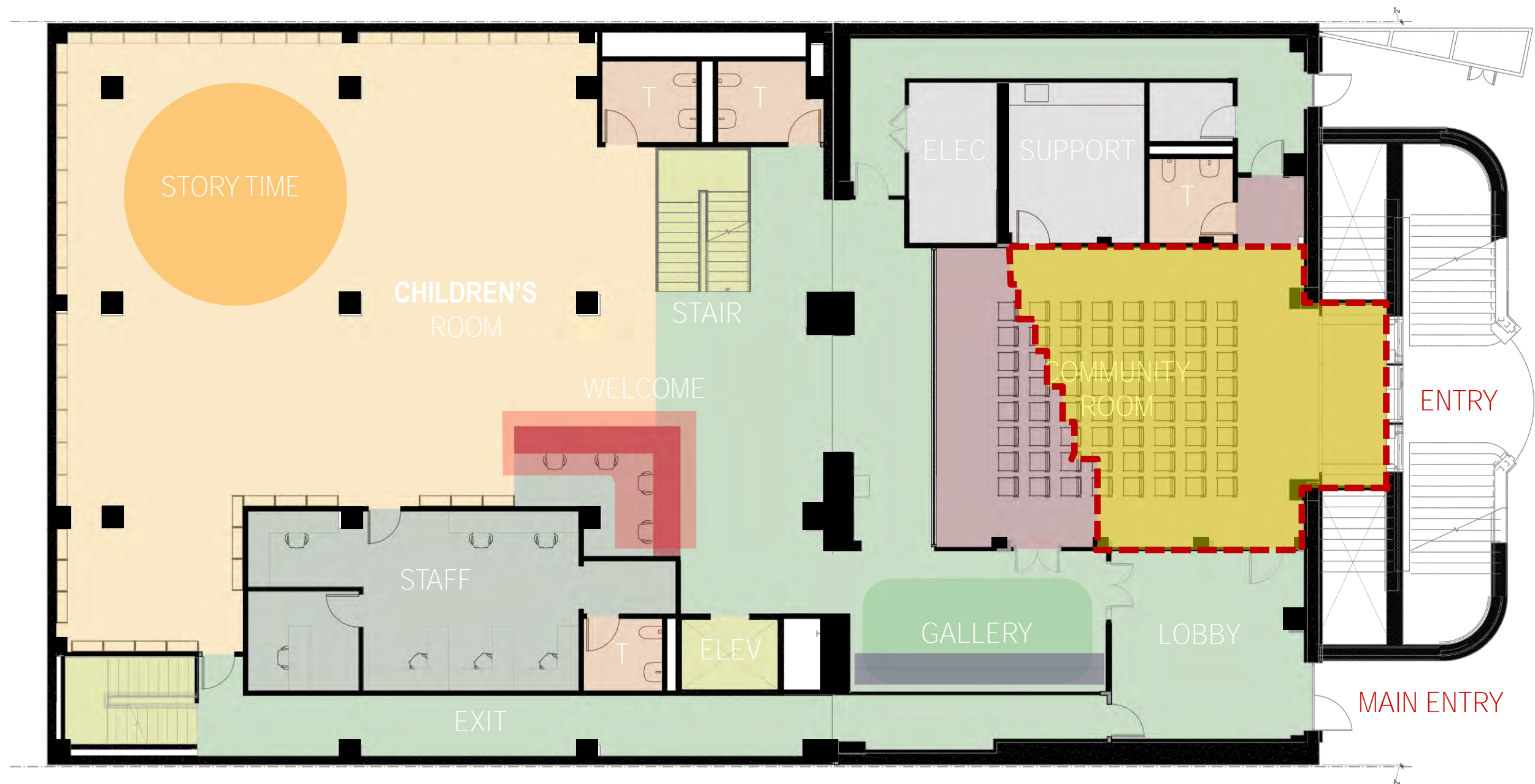
MEZZANINE PLAN

A



**BUILDING SECTION**





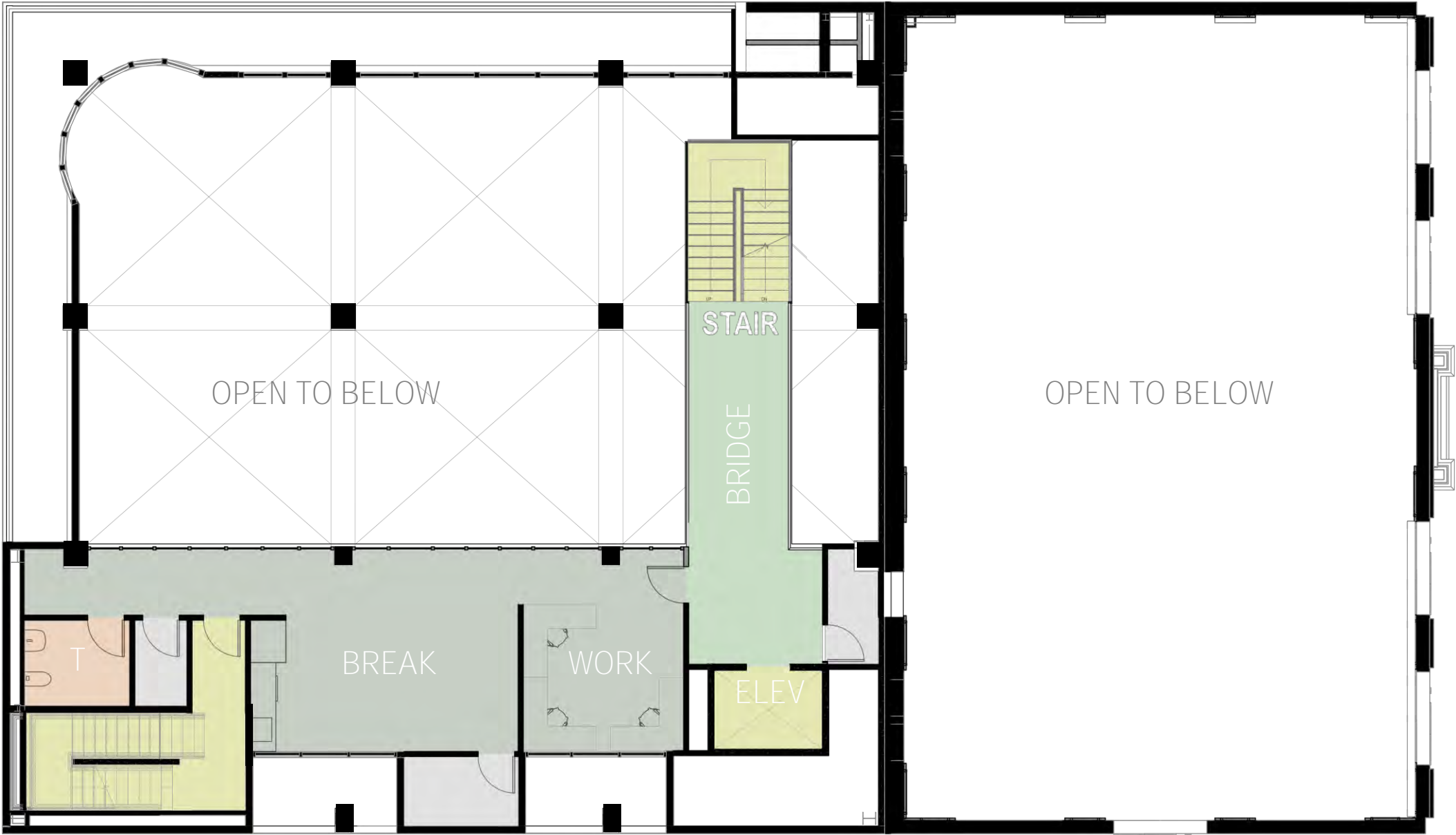
GROUND FLOOR PLAN

B



MAIN FLOOR PLAN

B



MEZZANINE PLAN

B

# PROJECT SCHEDULE:

Structural evaluation	Oct - Nov 2021, <i>complete</i>
Historic evaluation	Oct - Feb 2022, <i>drafted</i>
Design phases	Oct 2021 – Spring 2022
Community Engagement	May 2022
Historic Planning Approvals	Fall 2022
Bidding and Construction	TBD



# Questions?

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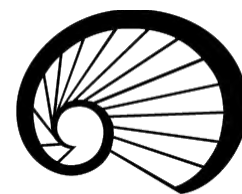
# UPCOMING

**MEETING 2:** Thursday, May 12, 6 p.m. – Virtual meeting via zoom. Register here: [on.sfpl.org/may12](https://on.sfpl.org/may12)

**MEETING 3:** Saturday, May 14, 11 a.m. – Chinatown Branch Community Room

## Thank you!

For updates: [www.sfpl.org/chinatown-renovation](https://www.sfpl.org/chinatown-renovation)



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# A Guiding Hand

It was three summers ago,  
That I came to San Francisco.  
Such a strange and scary land I did find,  
After a most comforting hometown I left behind.

I searched high and low, left and right,  
But there was nothing familiar in sight.  
New faces, new languages, even the summer was old.  
Anything warm and solid onto which I could hold?

The library, the public library of San Francisco,  
It cheered me up when my spirits were low.  
The quietness in it and the smell of so many a book  
All so comforting and yet exciting I quietly took.

Culture, geography, history, and language,  
From all these I derive wisdom and courage.  
Oh, it is such a strong and solid hand,  
That assures and guides me in this  
Wonderful land.

Cynthia & Jing Wen

金門華埠圖書樓。朝夕登臨任自由。  
萬卷教人迷望眼。百家容我讀從頭。  
鳩工伊始殊艱巨。燕賀落成好逗留。  
新擴中西文化地。且將優點互交流。