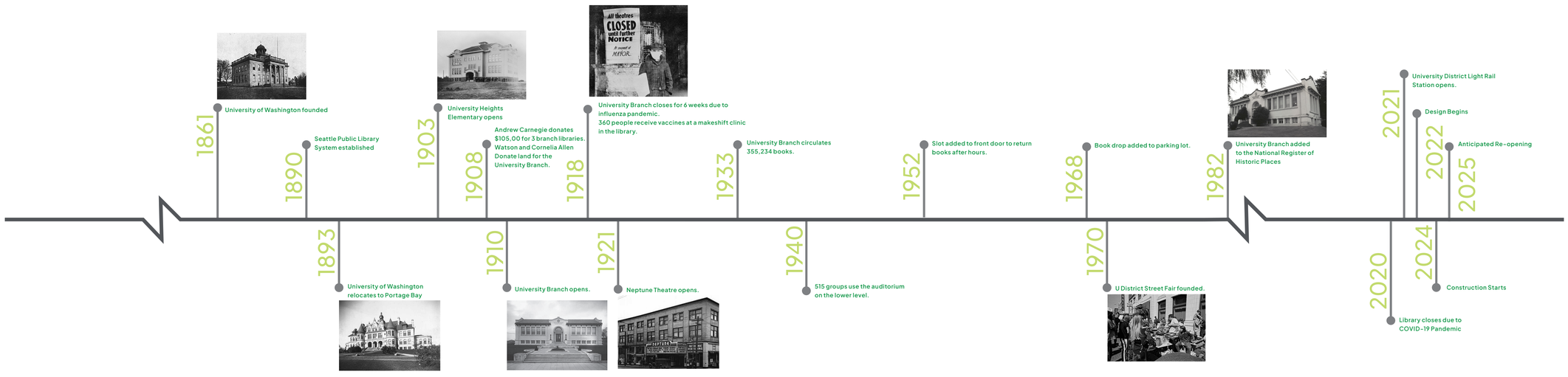
Project Overview

The Seattle University Branch Library is one of six remaining Carnegie Libraries operated by Seattle Public Libraries. Designed by architects Somervell & Coté, the library was constructed in 1908 and first opened in 1910. The architectural style of the University Library is Neo-classical, with a formal grand entrance and bilateral symmetry. The building's two-story structure is typical for its era, and combines a number of systems and materials. It is considered an unreinforced masonry (URM) building, constructed of reinforced concrete framing with hollow clay tile infill and finished with cement stucco. Some Mediterranean influence is expressed in the stucco cladding, glazed Terracotta roof tile, and exposed rafter ends. The regular, symmetrical fenestration pattern is characterized by openings with a strong vertical proportion.

The library is located at 5009 Roosevelt Way NE, in Seattle's University District neighborhood. The building is centrally located within the site, which slopes steeply downward to the east to meet the sidewalk at Roosevelt Way NE. The main entrance faces east with a central, ascending monumental stair. A paved parking lot is located at the west (rear) of the building. The surrounding area is characterized by a diverse mix of residential neighborhoods and commercial businesses.

The current project—funded by the 2019 Libraries for All Levy—will provide seismic upgrades and other life-safety updates, improve accessibility, and expand library services while maximizing retention of existing collection reductions. The last time the library underwent a major renovation was in 2007.



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Project Scope

Seismic Retrofit

The University Branch will receive a comprehensive structural upgrade that will significantly increase the safety of the building during an earth quake.

Accessibility Improvements

The entire building will be made more accessible for patrons with access from the sidewalk at Roosevelt Way NE to an upper entrance at the southwest corner of the building and a lower entrance at the north end of the building. Driveway and parking lot modifications will provide better access for vehicles with new accessible parking. Inside the building, a new elevator will provide access to both floors along with new accessible restrooms on both floors.

Sustainability

The building is designed to meet the City of Seattle's goals for environmentally responsible design and will be LEED Gold Certified. The current gas-fired boiler system will be replaced with a new highly efficient electric heat pump, designed to meet the City of Seattle's goals to eliminate usage of fossil-fuel sourced equipment. New, efficient lighting with daylight controls and a new photovoltaic array will offset and reduce some of the library's energy demands. Increased building insulation in select areas will improve the building's energy efficiency. Interior building finishes will be low VOC and locally sourced where practical.

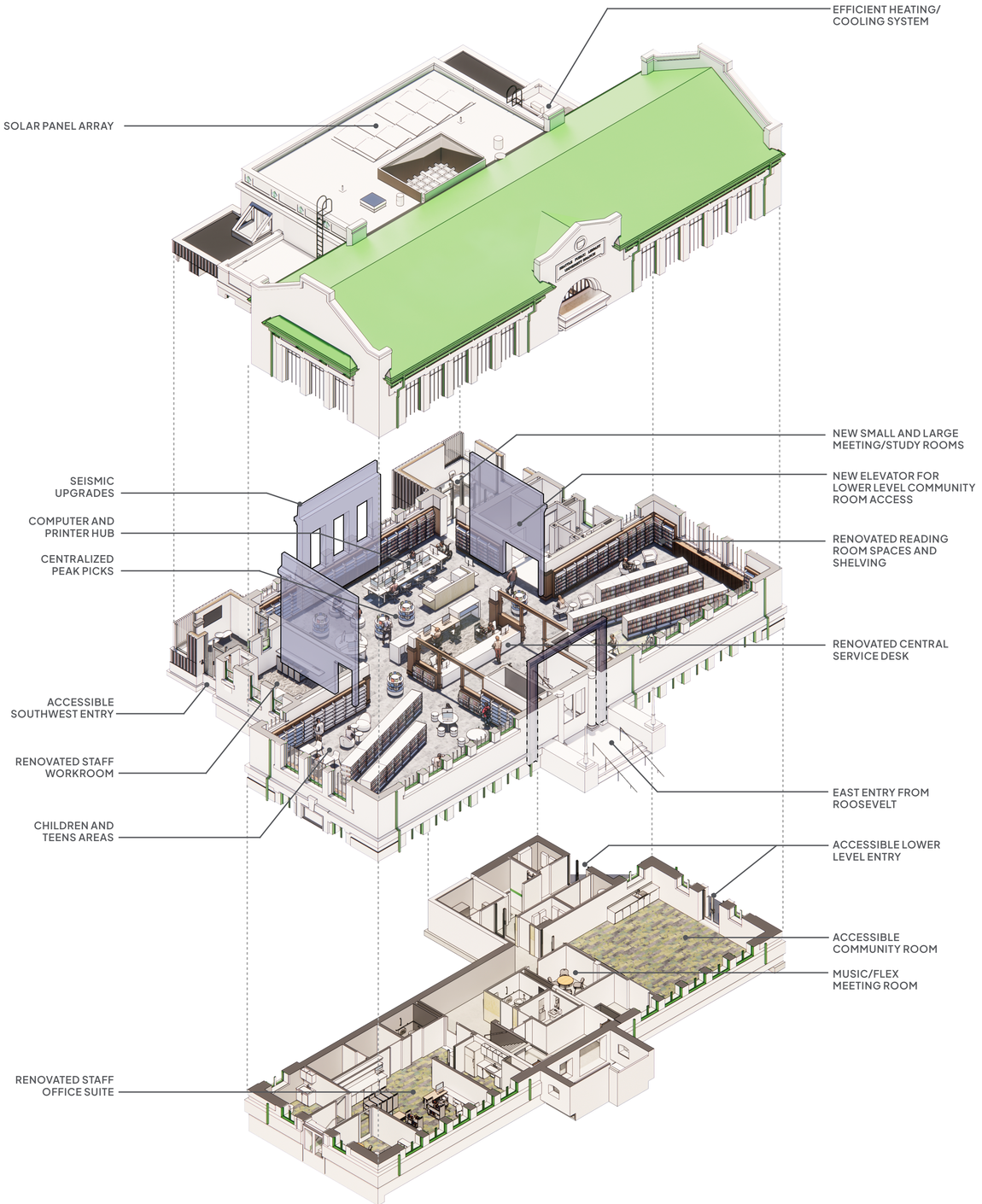
Interior Renovations

One new addition will provide a new entrance at the building's southwest corner. The other new addition will provide 2 new study rooms at the buildings northwest corner. A range of interior improvements including the new elevator, new staff work areas, a new circulation/service desk, a dedicated music room, new lighting, and new furniture will allow more efficient and flexible use of building space.

Exterior Renovation

The exterior of the building will be repainted after areas of deteriorated stucco are repaired. The existing wood windows will be retained and have already been recently restored. New roofing at the flat roof areas at the rear of the building will be replaced. The existing clay tile roof will be retained with minor repairs.

Seismic Upgrades and Additions



NORTH ADDITION PARKING VIEW

SOUTH ADDITION PARKING APPROACH

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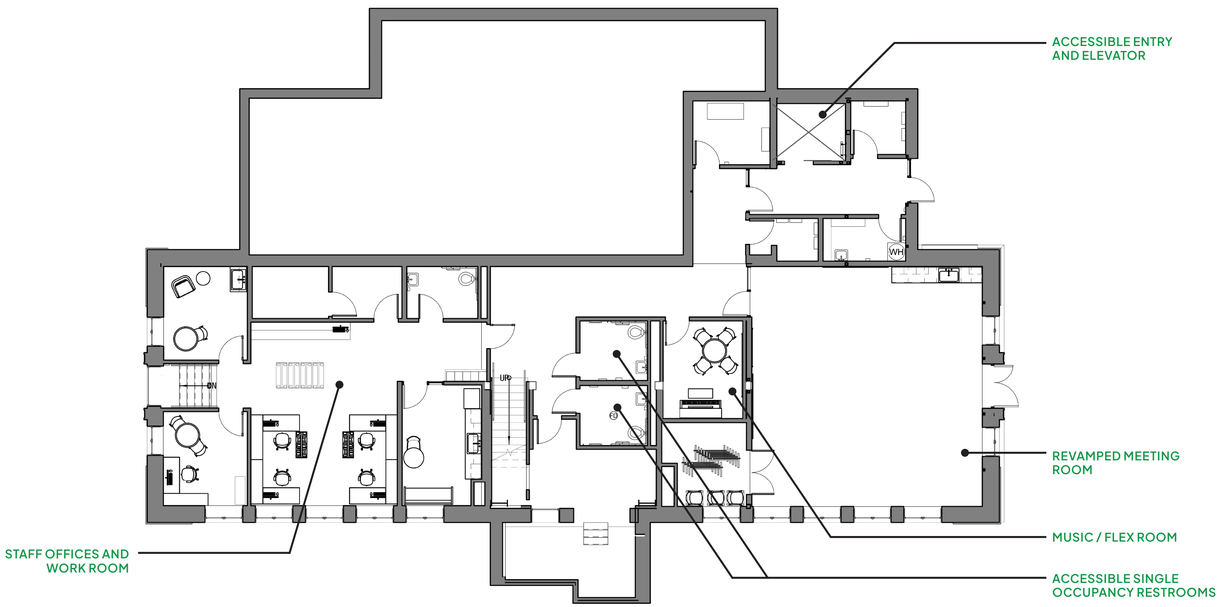
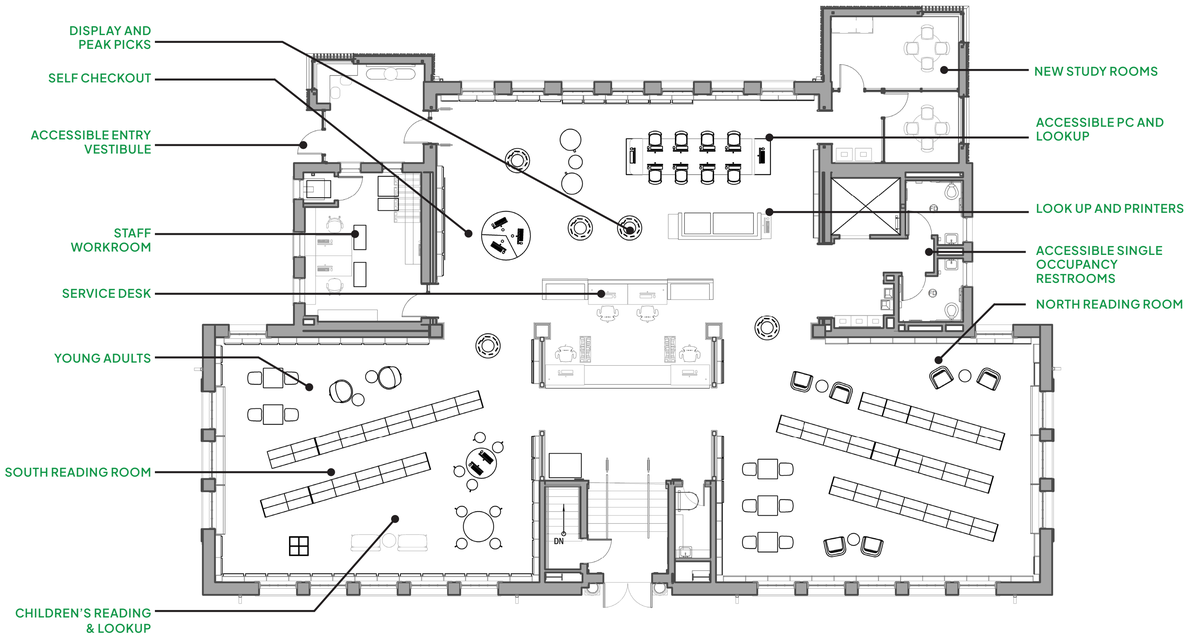
Interior Space Upgrades

The Seattle Public Library University Branch Renovation



LOWER LEVEL



MAIN LEVEL

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