

# City Tech Library Expansion & Renovation Proposal



January 23, 2019

# City Tech has changed since 1986!

*(when the library opened in the Atrium)*

- Enrollment has grown to 17,000+ students
- Baccalaureate students now up to 55%
- Numerous new baccalaureate degree programs
- Over 400 full-time faculty

# ...though the library space has not

- 365 carrel/desk seats are not enough
  - Student headcounts are 350-400 in the library most weekdays, surging to 500+ during exams
- Our 40,000 sq ft library is the smallest of any CUNY senior college
  - And smaller than most of the community colleges
- 150+ students/semester studied at NYU Tandon
  - Tandon stopped allowing library access for studying in Fall 2018
  - Students regularly complain that our library is crowded and noisy



# ...and our technology infrastructure has not

- Electrical outlets are few and inconvenient
  - We have only 12 electrified study carrels total in the library
- CIS has added wifi service points, though students still struggle with access
  - We have only 65 computers for student use and no space to add more
- **Our students often lack reliable access to quiet, technology-enabled study space off campus**



**Expanding the library is necessary to meet the  
academic needs of the City Tech community**

# Additional space in the library could

- Provide more quiet study space, which students request constantly
- Increase the number of study rooms with projection screens for collaborative work (we have only 5)
- Offer additional study space for student work on design projects, anatomical models, technology projects, and others



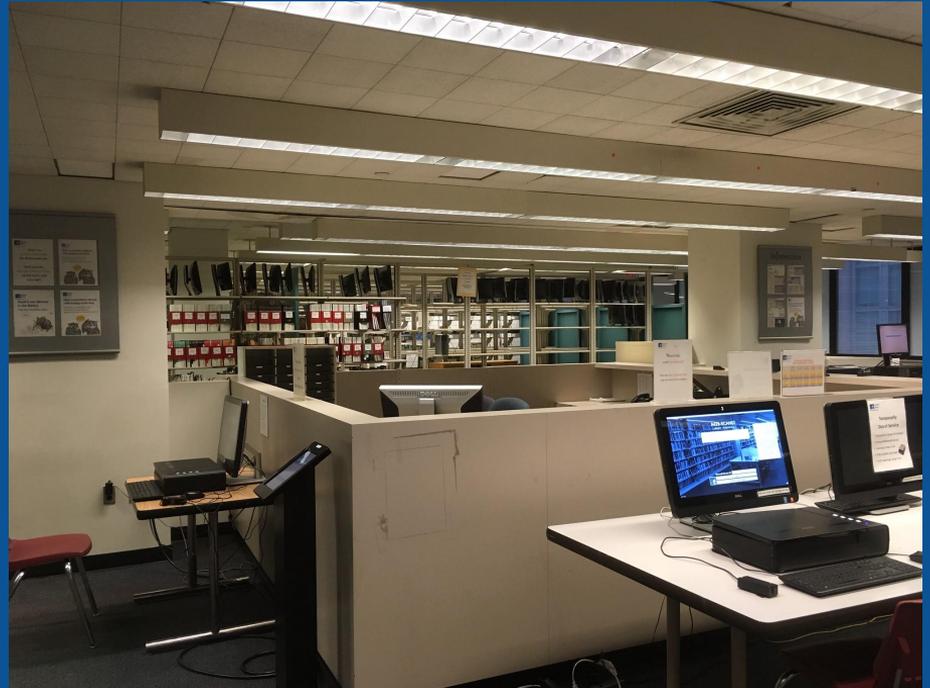
# Additional space in the library could

- Provide collaborative space for faculty to encourage interdisciplinary work and help ameliorate office space limitations
- Include additional technology-enabled, flexible classrooms for library instruction and use by faculty across the college
- Expand access to and create workspace to use the library archives, which includes college historical archives and the Science Fiction collection

**The library's 4th floor could be so much more  
useful with a renovation**

# The periodicals area

- Formerly housed print periodicals in closed stacks behind a large desk
  - Minimal print subscriptions mean this area is mostly empty
- Crowding and noise are acute in this isolated, lightly-staffed area



# Renovations to the periodicals area could

- Remove the closed stacks and desk, replace carpet
- Electrify the wall adjacent to the small workshop room, relocate scanners
- Purchase flexible tables, seating, and whiteboards (plus noise mitigation) to create group study space

**Additional renovations would improve the  
library's usability**

# Other renovations and purchases could include

- Purchase of additional carrel desks, tables, and chairs
  - And replace broken items--much of the library's furniture has not been replaced since the library opened in this location
- Increase electrical capability and wifi access throughout the library
  - And purchase electrified carrels and tables
- Complete other needed library repairs:
  - Replace the two broken windows on the east side of the 4th floor
  - Replace lighting and ceiling tiles in line with the rest of the Library Building
    - Students complain about poor lighting, especially on the 5th floor
  - Fix the 4th floor elevator keyplate to increase security
  - Fix the 4th floor lift to access the Projection Room and Multimedia Lab
    - An accessibility concern as these areas are out of compliance with the ADA

# Ursula C. Schwerin Library

300 Jay St, Brooklyn, NY

 Write a review

3.7  6 reviews

Sort by: Most relevant ▾



1 review

 a year ago

Literally the worst library in cuny. Probably in America. It is only 2 floors and you cannot enter/ exit off the second floor. You could imagine how annoying it is to get up walk to and down the steps and walk some more to just use the bathroom. There is probably only 20 outlets in the entire library. 20! For a school with nearly 12 thousand students. Getting one is nearly impossible most of the time especially during club hours. The " quiet section" is anything but. Literally people havin conversations in person and on the phone both staff and students as if they're outside. The place where ypu actually find an outlet is right by the open steps so you can hear all the talking from the 1st floor and even outside the library as i am hearing right now and the study rooms have paper thin walls so it's as if you're in their convo how loud it can get.And don't get me started on the WiFi service. If I gotten a dollar everytime I said, " how does the college of technology has such horrible wifi" I wouldve been the richest person alive. Its worse inside the library than throughout the school like how. The hours is horrible. It's the only place that closes the same time even during midterms and finals. Brooklyn college library is a million times better with millions of outlets, open 24/7in the cafe, and ACTUAL SILENCE.



**Response from the owner** a year ago

Hi Chevrohn,

We're sorry to hear you had an unpleasant experience here at City Tech. We've received complaints regarding the noise, outlets, and WiFi in the library. We will address these issues. I suggest that you also contact City Tech SGA, as they may also be helpful in highlighting your concerns with the college community.

If you would like to make further comments, please feel free to use the library's comment system - <http://library.citytech.cuny.edu/comments.php>

Best,

Junior Tidal

Web Services & Multimedia Librarian



library.citytech.cuny.edu

We want to improve your experience of the Library! Please share your comments and ideas.

My feedback is on the Library's:

- Building/Facilities    Collections (books, databases)    Computers    Printers    Service/staff    Other

My comments:

More library! (Time please).

Thank you! If you'd like us to respond to you please let us know your:

Name: John Tampa Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please place this in the Suggestion Box near the Library entrance, or give it to a Librarian at the Ask a Librarian desk.

# Successful students use the library

- Research shows that student library use correlates with retention and academic success.
- Studies have found that library engagement in the first year (or even first few weeks) helps with retention and acculturation.
- Additionally, researchers have found that repeated engagement with the library and research instruction at various points in a student's academic career has an impact.

*How the City Tech Library Supports FYE: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B5ouRxDyBKrLbUp4V0tGWGptbzQ/view>*

**The library is an essential partner in student retention,  
academic momentum, and success.**

**With the completion of the new academic complex, the  
time is right to expand and renovate the library.**