



TO: Cultural Education Committee

FROM: Jeffrey Cannell

SUBJECT: Building Better Libraries

DATE: March 9, 2015

AUTHORIZATION(S):

SUMMARY

Issue for Discussion

How libraries are modifying their facilities to improve the way they meet user and community needs.

Reason(s) for Consideration

For Information. Education Law Section 254 authorizes the Board of Regents to establish standards of library service for libraries statewide. Education Law section 273-a authorizes the provision of aid to support construction projects in libraries.

Background Information

Libraries continue to invest in the improvement of their facilities to support greater accessibility and utility to the communities they serve. Among these improvements are changes in technology infrastructure to improve Internet access; dedicated space for school age-children to offer learning spaces that support classroom work; and improvements in program spaces that support community activities. A panel from four libraries representing different regions of the State, different-sized service populations, and different forms of governance and funding will highlight how these changes have impacted their libraries. The panel is comprised staff from the New York Public Library (Manhattan, the Bronx, and Staten Island), the Queens Borough Public Library, the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library, and the Albany Public Library.