

# Ethel M. Gordon Library

## Library Assessment and Roadmap



March 7, 2019

# Who are we?

- Thank you for letting us be part of this historic project
- Library Systems & Services – 84 public libraries across the country
- Here to share information and learn more about Oakland Park's hopes for the library
- Support leveraging the Florida Public Library Construction grant



# Library Building and Renovation



Perris Library



Grace Mellman  
Community Library



Cathedral City Library



Osceola Public Library

# How can we help?

- Library assessment and roadmap to new facility
- Understand the special role the Ethel M. Gordon Library plays in Oakland Park
- Visualize services and atmosphere in new facility



# Why are we here?

- A new library is on the horizon
- Bond funding allocated and potential \$500,000 grant
- Current location: 1298 NE 37<sup>th</sup> Street
- Built in 1963
- A library of its time; built to house collection and facilitate borrowing



# What are we assessing?

- Library operations
- Areas we are doing well
- Opportunities for improvement
- Operational enhancements for new library
- Modernize for new library



# What does great library service look like?

- Staff who are welcoming and knowledgeable
- Collection – print and digital – that meets community needs
- Programs that offer learning and life enrichment
- Outreach beyond library walls
- Technology from basic computing and Internet to emerging
- Modern facility



***Public libraries are essential in community building.***

They are champions of youth, preserve historic artifacts and community history, serve as a resource for small businesses and young entrepreneurs, partner with other institutions to connect people with services and help and they ultimately serve as the “people’s university.”





***Re-imagining  
the Library***

# What does a modern library building include?

- Collaborative Learning spaces
- Workspaces to meet a variety of workstyles and patron demands (collaborative, small group, quiet study)
- Inspiring spaces to encourage creative thinking and learning
- Children's spaces that encourage curiosity and accommodate reading levels
- Comfortable young adult spaces for hands-on technology experiences, quiet and group collaboration and study
- Inviting performance spaces
- Dedicated spaces for historical society collection and research

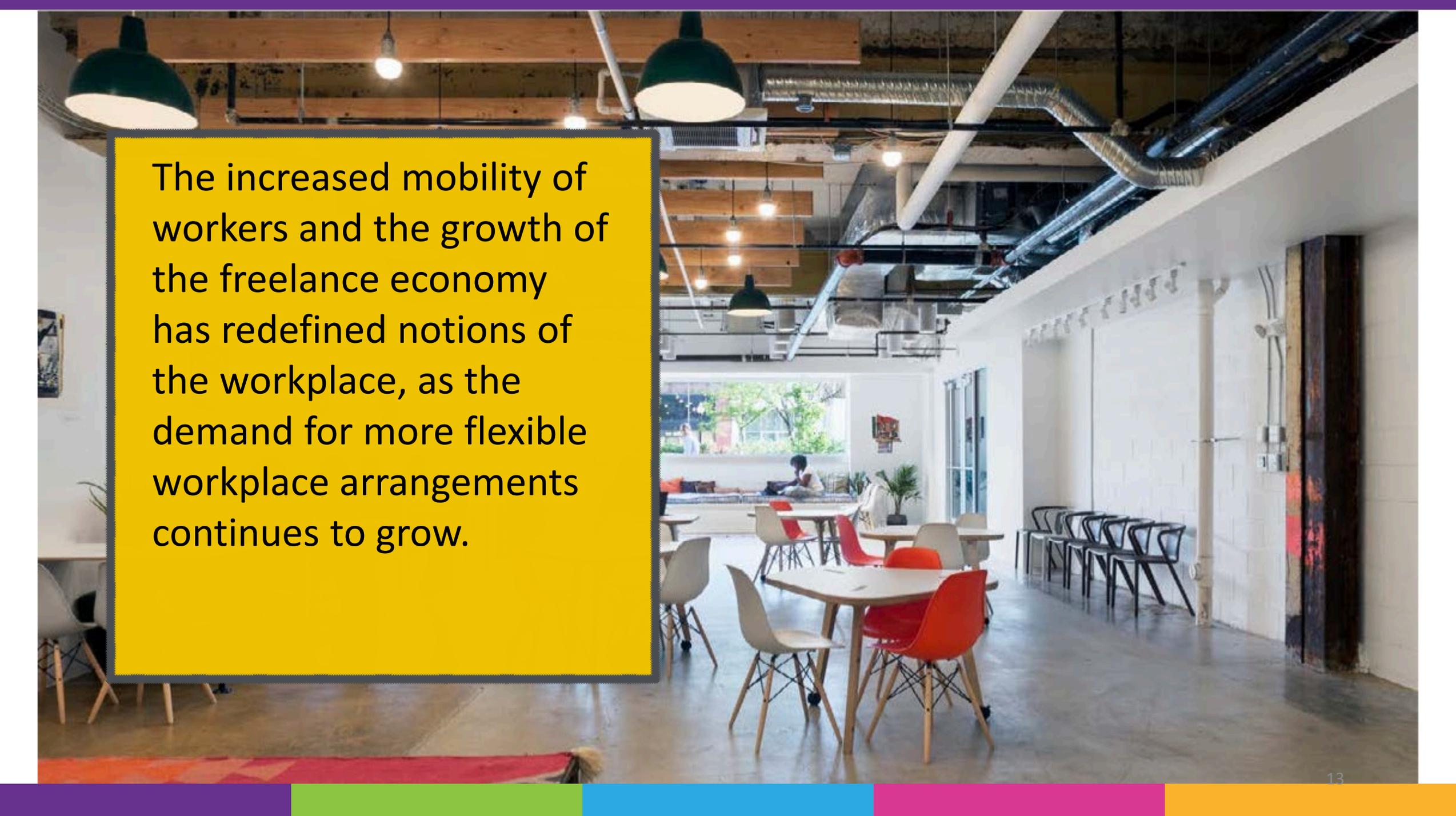
How do mobility and flexibility foster an entrepreneurial spirit?

How might new revenue streams create new opportunities?

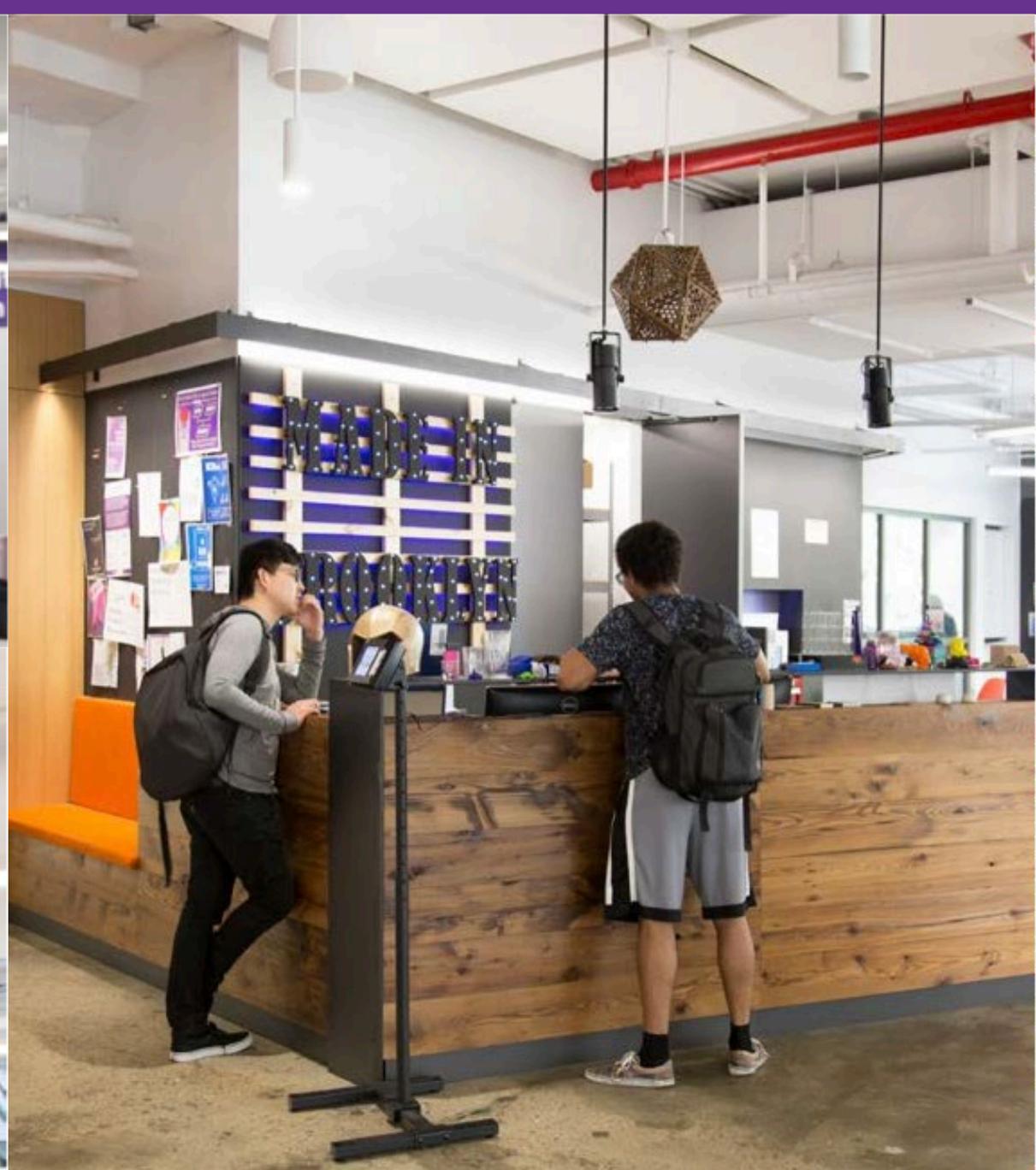
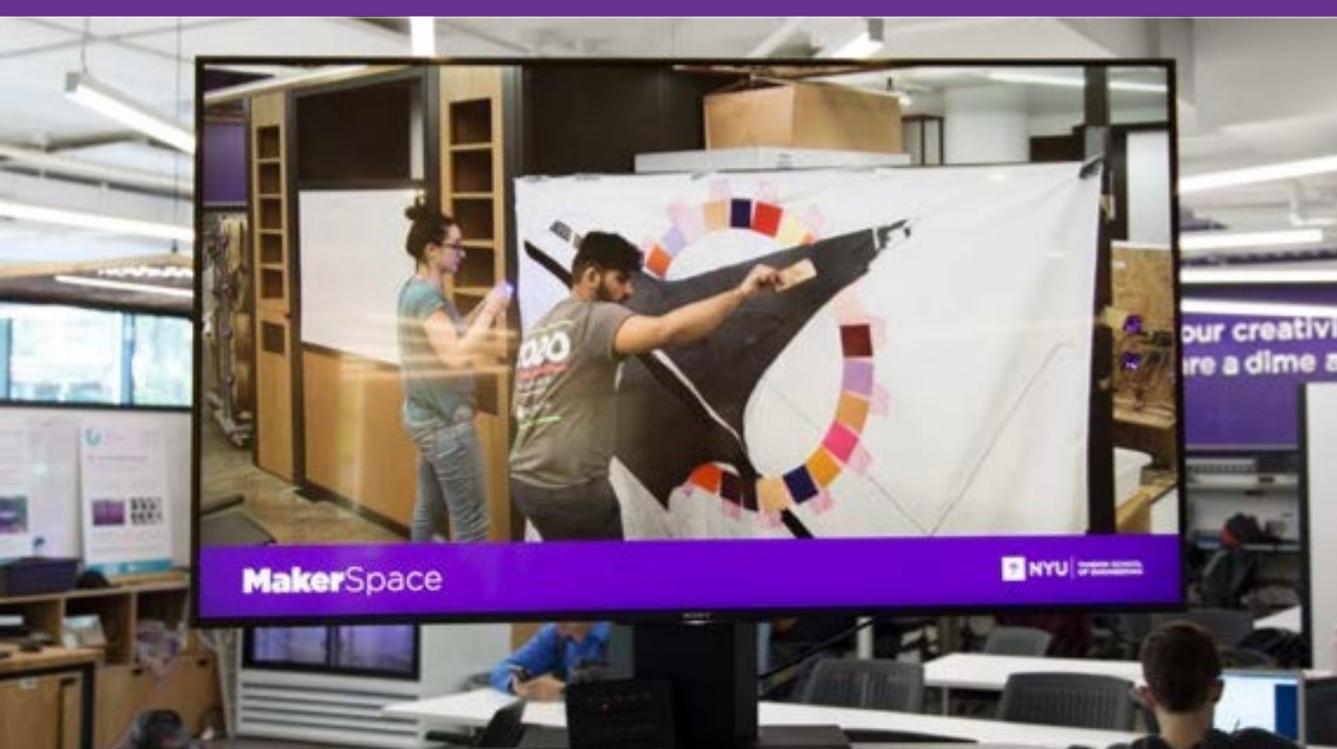
How might the digital era build physical connectivity and community?

How do mobility and flexibility foster an entrepreneurial spirit?





The increased mobility of workers and the growth of the freelance economy has redefined notions of the workplace, as the demand for more flexible workplace arrangements continues to grow.



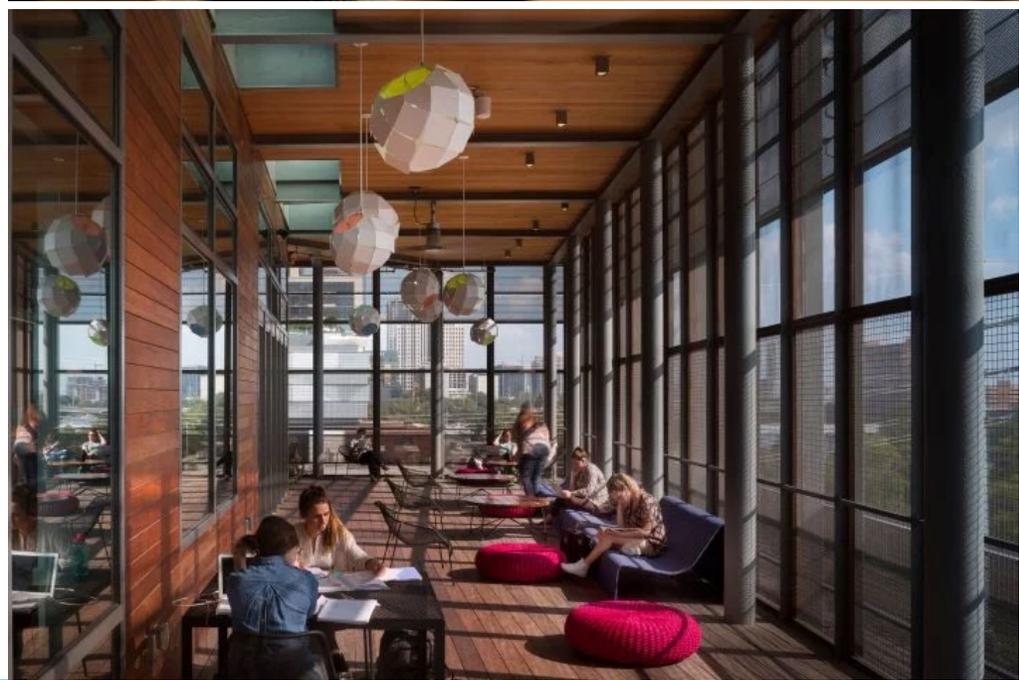
How might new revenue streams create unexpected opportunities?



## ***Public-Private Partnerships***

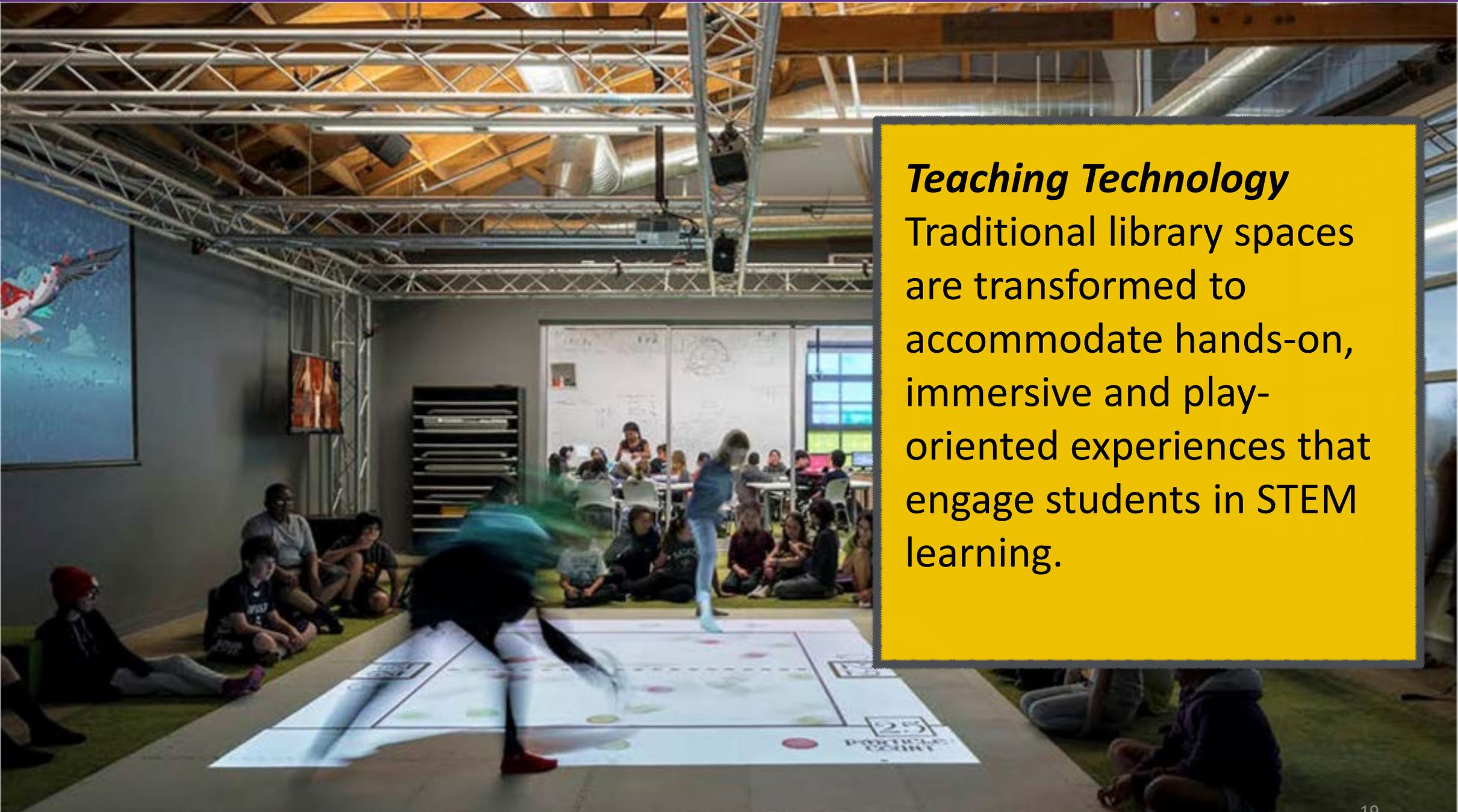
In areas where available space is at a premium, library-owned real estate can be leveraged as a source of funding or the basis for partnership.





How can the digital era build physical connectivity and community?





## ***Teaching Technology***

Traditional library spaces are transformed to accommodate hands-on, immersive and play-oriented experiences that engage students in STEM learning.



# What does this mean for Oakland Park?

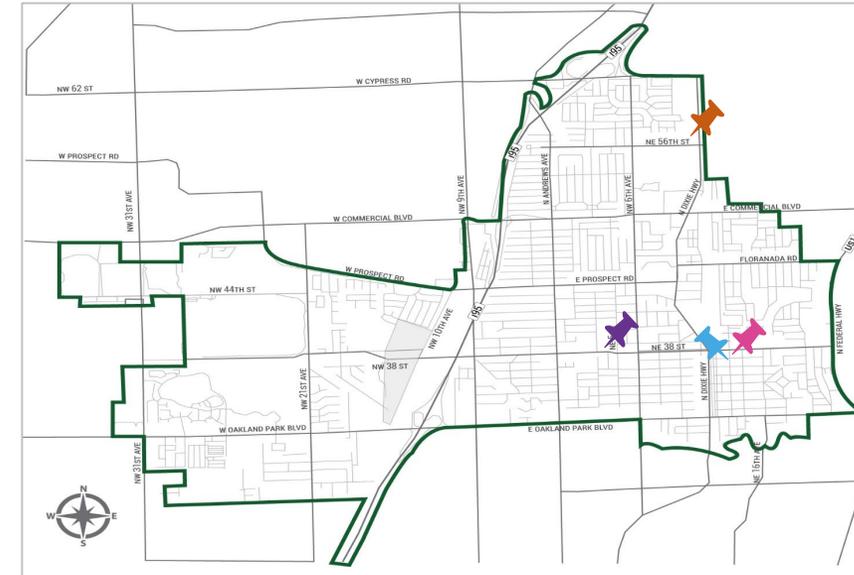
- New opportunity for a library
- We want the new library to provide the best service possible
- An amazing chance to lift the city
- Part of that is choosing the best site for the new library



 **Current Location:**  
1298 NE 37<sup>th</sup> Street

# How do we start?

- A better question is, “*where* do we start?”
- We want to choose the site that best serves the entire community
- Possible sites for the new library:
  - Downtown
  -  Municipal Building (renovated)
  -  Central Park / Collins Community Center Area
  - 



# Option One: Downtown



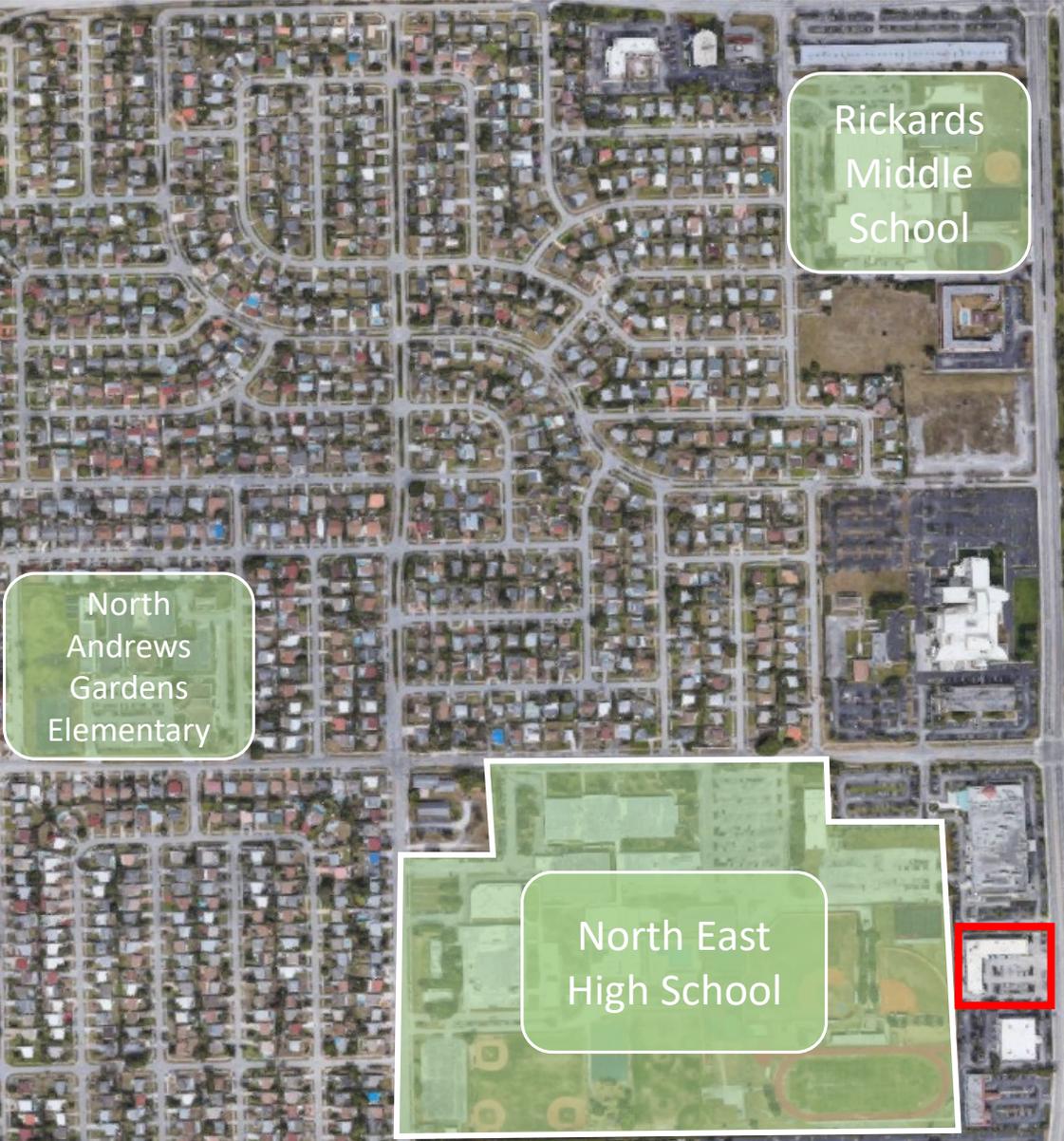
## Downtown Pros:

- Library remains part of downtown area
- Location known to public
- Close to potential commuter train stop
- Supports downtown activities

## Downtown Cons:

- Other uses might be better suited for downtown properties
- Keeps prime downtown property off tax rolls
- Located away from major roadways
- Eastern edge of Oakland Park
- Potential parking limits

# Option Two: Municipal Building (Renovated, Co-located with Police Department)



# Municipal Building

## Pros:

- Significant cost savings
- Visible location on Dixie Highway
- Close to public transportation
- Walking distance from three schools
- Co-location with Police Department offers synergy and added public safety

# Municipal Building

## Cons:

- Would change library atmosphere: More urban with limited green space
- Significant change from present location
- Loss of library/park connection
- Northern edge of Oakland Park
- Potential parking challenges

# Option Three: Central Park Area/ Collins Community Center



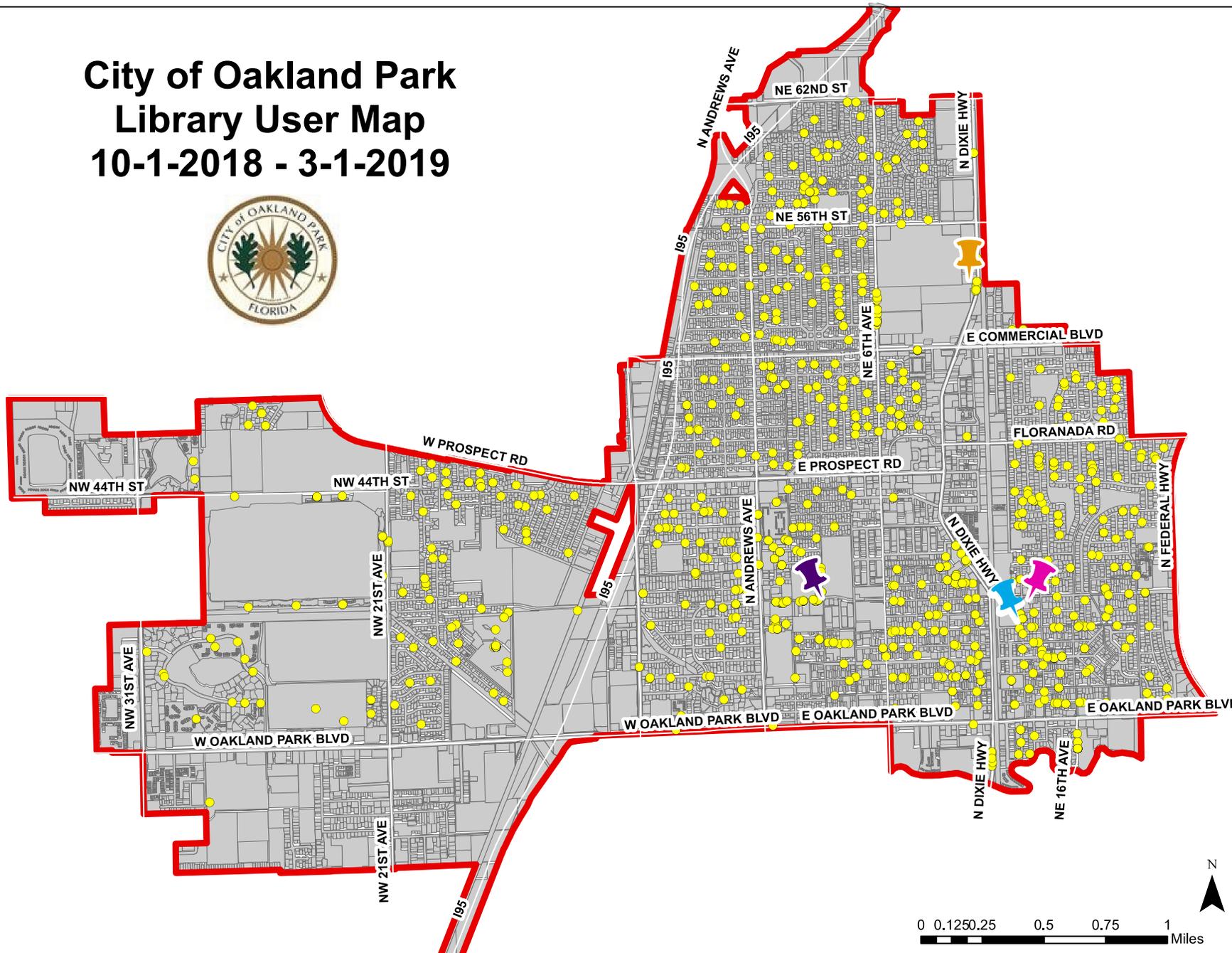
## Collins Community Center Pros:

- Geographic center of Oakland Park
- Co-location with community center, baseball fields, walking path, fire station
- Opportunity for library programs offered outdoors
- Potential increase in library visits (families visiting ball fields also visit library)
- Part of master planning efforts in area
- Potential saving if library and community center are co-located in the same building

## Collins Community Center Cons:

- Location is not on major arterial road, reduced visibility
- Change from present location

# City of Oakland Park Library User Map 10-1-2018 - 3-1-2019



# What does Oakland Park Want From the Library?

- Free access to existing and emerging technology
- A place where residents gather, learn and socialize
- Personalized service and welcoming atmosphere

# What are next steps?

- Continue recording stakeholder input
- Assess Library operations and draft recommendations
- Share possibilities for inclusion in new facility



