



ELEVATOR EQUIP ROOM  
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EXISTING ELEVATOR  
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The Salt Lake City Public Library included a **universal, multi-access washroom design**, which allows for **direct entry from a public space into toilet rooms**, as part of our Sprague Branch renovation project.

The design, as proposed was deemed by the City's Code Examiner to be out of compliance with current building code. The Library has been working with the Code Examiner and are very close to agreeing on a compromise design. (See reverse for current proposal)

In addition to the proposed universal washroom design, the plans include multiple washroom options for patrons including a single handicapped accessible stall upstairs, as well as a separate bathroom for children/families downstairs.

We have put forth this universal washroom design for a number of reasons including:

- **Enhances safety through greater usage activity and simplified staff monitoring.** The more open design in areas adjacent to stalls promotes visibility and safety. This design applies the principles of "Crime Prevention through Environmental Design" (CPTED) and protects users, especially children, from inappropriate contact with strangers by providing individual direct entry stalls. The universal multi-access design facilitates parents' ability to observe their children entering and leaving a stall on their own.
- **Enhances privacy:** Universal multi-access design meets a higher standard of privacy and comfort than most traditional facilities by providing full-height enclosures for toilets, creating individual 'toilet rooms' as opposed to the more traditional (and less private) stalls separated by partial dividers. Privacy is enhanced where it is most needed, while openness is enhanced in the common area to support better visibility and monitoring, and therefore, supports safety as well as privacy.
- **Is inclusive and provides access for all**, including families, parents, and caregivers, people with disabilities, and those whose gender identity or expression does not match the gender identity assigned to them at birth. Universal design reduces access problems for people with disabilities or others who have personal attendants of a different genders.
- **Efficiency and Convenience:** Universally accessible stalls reduce wait time for patrons. With universal access, anyone can use any stall. There's no need to insist that women's stalls outnumber men's at a ratio of 3:1 or 2:1, which helps to achieve "Potty Parity" — the equitable provision of toilet facilities for women and men within a public space.
- **Space and Cost Savings:** Traditional bathroom design requires more space than universal design. Traditional design increases cost while reducing usable public space.

For these reasons, universal washroom design is increasingly considered a best practice in design of public spaces. **In fact, this year the International Code Council (ICC) adopted amendment to the International Building and Plumbing Codes to explicitly allow for universal washroom design.** While the amendments to the codes were accepted this year, the new changes will not be officially published until in the 2021 edition of ICC codes, which are used as the basis for building code laws in all 50 states, Washington DC, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

*Update on Universal Washroom Design for Sprague Branch  
Presented to Sugar House Community Council, 9/4/19  
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