



## City & County of San Francisco Branch Library Improvement Program

### Richmond Branch Library Renovation Frequently Asked Questions

**Q. What are the plans for the branch?**

A. The project will add 4,000 square feet, provide for a complete renovation including seismic strengthening, accessibility improvements, energy-efficiency and technology upgrades. The historic integrity of this 1914 Carnegie landmark will be maintained and the building restored to its original grandeur.

**Q. What will be some of the benefits of the renovated branch?**

- Seismic strengthening
- Accessible entries from both sides of the building
- A designated Teen Area
- Two study rooms
- New program room for library and community programs, with the flexibility to be used as a computer training lab
- Access to a new patio off the program room
- Creation of a “winter garden,” a new two story high entry on the 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue side
- New restrooms including a family restroom in the Children’s Room
- Quiet adult reading area
- A safe accessible elevator
- New after hours book drop
- Improved landscaping, including an area reserved for a new play structure
- Better staff work areas
- Infrastructure to provide modern technologies and flexibility for the future
- Better lighting
- New or restored furniture
- Clearer signage
- More computers with access to the Internet and library online resources
- Restored historic features such as windows, lights, ceilings, and woodwork
- Express checkout machines
- Comfortable seating choices
- Improved heating and ventilation
- New public art installation of two bronze dome sculptures on the 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue grounds

**Q. When will the branch be closed and for how long?**

A. The branch is scheduled to close for construction in *January 2006* and reopen in *June 2008* or sooner. During the renovation, library services will be provided by increasing hours at nearby branches, holding programs at neighborhood schools and community centers, and by bookmobile service.



**Q. Who are the architects?**

Bureau of Architecture, Department of Public Works, City & County of San Francisco

**Q. Will the amount of books increase?**

A. Yes. There will be a 14% increase in the collections including more teen, Chinese and Russian, and audio-visual materials as well as more seating, computers and program space.

**Q. What happens to the existing furniture?**

A. Some of the historic pieces may be restored if feasible, but most of the furniture will be replaced. The Library has developed interior design guidelines to help the architects and staff choose appropriate furniture based on functionality, ergonomics, durability, maintenance, flexibility, sustainability, as well as the architectural period.

**Q. Is the community involved in the design process?**

A. Yes. A survey was conducted in November 2001, where 748 people gave their opinion about materials, facilities, and services at the branch. Three community meetings plus a two-day Design Workshop were held to discuss conceptual designs (February 2002, June 2002, August 2002, & February 2003). In August 2002, the Library Commission held a Design Review where an architect, urban planner and interior designer publicly reviewed the proposed design. The design has remained unchanged during the Proposition 14 grant application process. Before closure, the architects will go back to the community to discuss the final plans.

**Q. Where does the money come from to renovate the branch?**

A. In November 2000, the voters overwhelmingly passed a bond measure for \$106 million to upgrade San Francisco's branch library system. The bond's priorities are to reduce seismic risk, meet modern technological needs and current code requirements, comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and provide spaces that are responsive to current services, yet flexible enough to meet future needs. In addition, while the bond pays for a significant portion of the costs, it does not pay for furniture, fixtures, and equipment. The Friends of the San Francisco Public Library will raise \$16 million from private donations to pay for these costs. Call (415) 626-7512 to help with the Friends campaign.

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**Q. How much does construction cost for the Richmond Branch?**

A. The project has a construction budget of \$5 million to renovate and expand the building.

**Q. What is Proposition 14 and how does it affect the Richmond Branch renovation?**

A. Proposition 14 is a statewide bond measure approved by the voters in March 2000, to sell \$350 million of state general obligation bonds for library construction and renovation. In order to supplement San Francisco's bond program, the Library has submitted applications to fund five branch library projects, including the Richmond renovation. The State plans to make their grant determinations by late fall 2004. Whether or not the City receives this funding, the Richmond project will move forward.

**Q. How do I find out more information about my branch renovation?**

A. Contact the Branch Library Improvement Program at (415) 557-4354, check [www.sfpl.org](http://www.sfpl.org), or email [BLIP@sfpl.org](mailto:BLIP@sfpl.org).