



City & County of San Francisco Branch Library Improvement Program

Branch Library Improvement Program Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Branch Library Improvement Program?

In November 2000, San Francisco voters overwhelmingly passed a bond measure for \$106 million to upgrade its branch library system. The Branch Library Improvement Program will provide the public with seismically safe, accessible, technologically updated, and code compliant City-owned branch libraries in every neighborhood. This is the first opportunity in half a century to improve the City's library system.

Which neighborhoods will get new libraries and why?

New branch libraries will be built in Glen Park, Portola, Ingleside, and Visitacion Valley, with groundbreakings scheduled for 2004-06. These branches are currently housed in leased facilities and will be replaced by City-owned buildings. A new branch will also be built in the new community of Mission Bay.

Which libraries will be renovated?

Nineteen branches will be renovated: Anza, Bayview/Anna E. Walden, Bernal Heights, Excelsior, Eureka Valley/Harvey Milk Memorial, Golden Gate Valley, Marina, Merced, Noe Valley/Sally Brunn, North Beach, Ortega, Park, Parkside, Potrero, Presidio, Richmond/Senator Milton Marks, Sunset, West Portal and Western Addition. The timing of the renovations is staggered, so there will always be a branch open nearby.

What are the priorities of the program?

The priorities are to reduce seismic risk, comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), meet modern technological needs and current code requirements, and provide spaces that are responsive to current services, yet flexible enough to meet future needs.

Does the Bond money pay for everything?

No, the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library are raising \$16 million from private donations for furniture, fixtures, and equipment. Call (415) 626-7512 x 103 to help with this campaign. Also, the City was awarded \$9.7 million from State Public Library Construction & Renovation Bond funds (Proposition 14) for the Richmond and Ingleside construction and furniture.

What improvements will be made at my branch library?

A 'Community Needs Assessment' is being conducted for each branch, with public meetings, community surveys and outreach to neighborhood organizations. Design options are considered such as public meeting rooms, more computers, separate teen facilities, child and adult reading areas, and other library services. Because the budget for each branch is fixed, there are many difficult choices about what will fit into each branch library. These decisions are made with input from the neighborhood and staff.

When will my branch be worked on?

The 19 renovated branch libraries will close for construction in the following years:

| <u>2004</u> | <u>2005</u> | <u>2006</u> | <u>2007 - 2008</u> |
|-------------|------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Excelsior | West Portal | Richmond | Parkside |
| | Marina | Bernal Heights | Merced |
| | Sunset | Potrero | Anza |
| | Noe Valley | Ortega | Golden Gate Valley |
| | Western Addition | Eureka Valley | Park |
| | | Bayview | Presidio |
| | | North Beach | |

Will the branch be closed during construction?

During renovation, branches will be closed temporarily from 16 to 32 months. Library services will be provided in various ways, such as increasing hours at a nearby branch, holding programs at neighborhood schools and community centers, and offering bookmobile service. During construction of new branches, the existing leased libraries will remain open.

How do I get involved?

There will be several community meetings to discuss services and architectural plans. Ask your Branch Manager to add your name to our mailing list. In addition, plans will be reviewed by the Library Commission at public forums.

How do I find out more information?

Ask your Branch Manager, check our website at www.sfpl.org, contact the Library's Chief of Branches at 415-557-4353 or call the Branch Library Improvement Program at 415-557-4354.