

**2010** was a challenging year economically for the country. But it also provided an opportunity for libraries to shine. Many libraries suffered a reduction in funding and services, yet remained committed to providing essential services to students, job-seekers, and families — support badly needed in struggling communities as evidenced by increased library usage throughout much of the country. At the Berkeley Public Library, thanks to community support, we maintained our regular library hours and essential services, and saw substantial increases in visits, borrowing, computer use, and program attendance.

This trend fuels our commitment to continue providing excellent services and programs to our community. Included is our commitment to make our branch libraries more vibrant and accessible places by taking full advantage of the Measure FF funds voters passed in 2008. The branch improvement projects are moving forward! By summer 2010, North and Claremont branch libraries were in the final stages of design with construction anticipated to begin in early 2011. While preserving and celebrating our historical resources, these neighborhood libraries will be transformed, becoming physically larger, operating more efficiently, and offering greater flexibility far into the future. They will shine as safe places where students of all ages find resources for formal and informal learning, places where families can offer their children one of the greatest advantages any child can have — early literacy.

Please join us in the coming year as we continue our journey to rejuvenate branch library services, creating memorable and state-of-the-art libraries in west and south Berkeley as we build your vision for the future.

— Donna Corbeil  
Director of Library Services

## Board of Library Trustees

The five-member Board, appointed by the City Council, is charged with management and governance of the Library. The Board meets monthly to formulate major policies and long-range plans for the Library. Members serve four-year terms.

Winston Burton  
Carolyn Henry-Golphin  
Susan Kupfer  
Darryl Moore, City Councilmember  
Terry Powell (January 2010, resigned)  
Abigail Franklin (January 2010, appointed)

[www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org/about\\_the\\_library/bolt/bolt.php](http://www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org/about_the_library/bolt/bolt.php)

## Friends of the Library

The Friends of the Library is a non-profit membership organization whose purpose is to expand the educational, cultural, and outreach programs of the Library. This includes children's reading events, lunchtime concerts, history lectures, and author talks. The Friends also provide library school scholarships to library staff, fund special projects, and have a program of staff recognition.

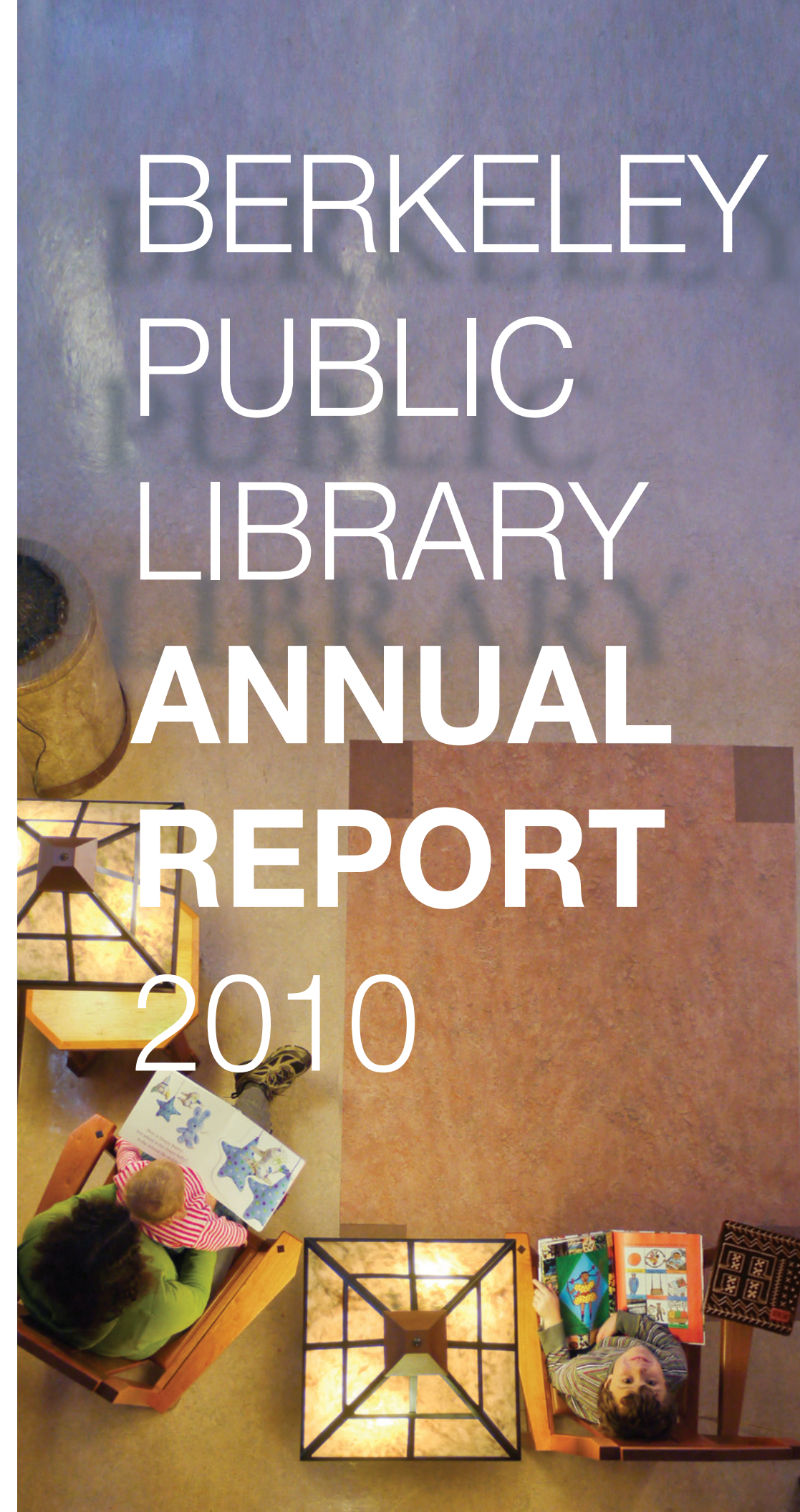
Diane Davenport, President of the Friends  
[www.berkeleylibraryfriends.org](http://www.berkeleylibraryfriends.org)

## Berkeley Public Library Foundation

The mission of the Berkeley Public Library Foundation is "...to support our community's knowledge and learning by enhancing library facilities, programs, and services." The Neighborhood Libraries Campaign was launched by the Foundation in 2010 to assist with providing furniture and equipment as part of the Branch Improvement Program with the goal of raising \$3.5 million. In addition, for nine years, the Foundation has celebrated the Bay Area's vibrant literary community and raised funds through the annual Authors Dinner.

Joan Lamphier, Co-president, Board of Directors  
Jerry Long, Co-president, Board of Directors  
David Snyder, Executive Director  
[www.bplf.org](http://www.bplf.org)

[www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org](http://www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org)  
(510) 981-6100



## Statistical Highlights

- During the 2009-2010 fiscal year 1,523,017 visits — fourteen times the entire population of Berkeley — were made to the five Berkeley Public Library locations, up 8% from the prior year.
- Dramatic increases continued in the number of items borrowed with 2,081,583 books, recordings, movies, and tools circulated to 95,917 Library users — about 22 checkouts per person, a 35% increase since 2006!
- Library materials are delivered upon request directly to a user's most convenient location. Users reserved and received 222,206 books, DVDs, CDs, and audiobooks.
- Patrons seeking materials not owned by the Berkeley Public Library requested and received 22,592 items through the very popular Link+ program offered by a consortium of member libraries.
- The Library served as a valuable resource for weathering the tough economy. Thousands took advantage of our online resources to help build their résumés and find jobs.
- The Library is dedicated to bridging the "Digital Divide." Nearly 200,000 individual sessions were logged by patrons at the 73 computers dedicated to Internet and public computing. We continue to offer basic computing classes all year long.



- Berkeley Reads, the Library's adult literacy program, helped over 217 individuals change their lives by improving their basic reading and writing skills with the assistance of 155 dedicated tutors.

## Services and Programs

The Library held 1,675 public programs at Library facilities and at other community locations, with a total of 40,692 persons in attendance.

- Preschool and school-age audiences enjoyed 1,230 programs tailored especially to their interests.
- Many jobseekers and business owners received free advice and business support in seminars presented in partnership with the Cal State East Bay Small Business Development Center.
- Partnering with the Foundation Center, the Library held classes for individuals and nonprofits seeking grant funding.
- Dedicated to connecting with the community's children, the Children's Librarians visited every 2nd grade classroom in the public schools for a second year in a row.



- The Summer Reading Program theme was *Make a Splash, Read!*, where 1,440 participating kids received hundreds of free prizes for their reading enthusiasm.
- Berkeley's Teen Services librarians imparted lifelong skills to seven high school students who were recruited, trained, and employed during an eight-month term.
- In collaboration with the Public Health Division's Vera Casey Teen Parenting Program, the Library engaged teen mothers in book discussions and craft activities.
- Central Library, as a hub of musical activity, marked the past year with many more entries in its ongoing series of free concerts.
- The much-loved Spanish language Café Literario series of lectures and book discussions continued at the West Branch.
- Dozens of sports enthusiasts were treated to two programs on how to follow soccer's quadrennial World Cup.

## Budget Summary

The Library's services and programs are supported from a variety of revenue sources encompassing the Library Services Tax, private and public grants, awards from the CA State Library, fines and fees, and the generous monetary gifts and donations received from companies, organizations, trusts, and individuals. The Library Services Tax, a special assessment on local property taxes, is the largest contributor to Library revenues and for FY 2010 was increased by 0.8015% consistent with the rise in the San Francisco Bay Area CPI.

### Fiscal Year 2010 (July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010) Year-end report (Library Tax Fund)

final total revenues	\$14,152,275
final total expenditures	\$13,792,543
ending FY 2010 fund balance	\$1,461,884

**Projections:** In June 2010, the Berkeley City Council set the FY 2011 Library Services Tax rate to increase 1.7168% based on the San Francisco Bay Area CPI. The original FY 2011 budget was adopted by the Board of Library Trustees in June 2009 as part of the FY 2010 and FY 2011 Biennial Budget. Approved revisions to the FY 2011 budget continue to project an operating deficit in the Library Tax Fund offset by a favorable balance in the Fund due to prior years' carryover; nonetheless, the Library remains vigilant in its efforts to bridge the gap between revenues and expenditures.



Major FY 2011 projects include a continuation of the Neighborhood Branch Library Improvement Program and the final sale of \$16M in Measure FF bonds, as well as the replacement of the Library's self-check system.

Following Berkeley voters' approval of Measure FF in November 2008, the Berkeley Public Library initiated the Neighborhood Branch Library Improvement Program to enhance library services and to improve accessibility, code compliance, and seismic safety in all neighborhood branches to better serve our communities far into

the future. Opportunities for community input during the planning process included 27 neighborhood open forums in FY 2010 alone, including 12 design presentations before the Board of Library Trustees. This was a critical piece of our decision-making process.

Planning for the Library's first branch closures for renovation at North and Claremont included acquiring the neighborhood BookVan — to be unveiled in early 2011. The BookVan will visit neighborhoods near the closed branches distributing holds and picking

up materials for return. Of course, our younger visitors weren't forgotten in the planning process. Storytime for children will continue in locations near the closed branches during the closure periods.

Go to [berkeleypubliclibrary.org/branchimprovements](http://berkeleypubliclibrary.org/branchimprovements) to find current plans and project information, and a link to make a comment.

