

## Berkeley Public Library

# BRANCH LIBRARY FACILITY PLANNING UPDATE

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### **What is the 2008 Branch Library Master Facility Plan**

- Physical evaluation of the four Berkeley Public Library branches and the Tool Library to assess their feasibility to serve the community, both now and 20-years into the future;
- Updates, to current code standards in all pertinent areas, including structural, mechanical, electrical, architectural finishes, hazardous materials, ADA compliance, etc.;
- Includes input from the community, gathered by survey and community meetings held at the branches, and a community-representative Facilities Master Plan Advisory Committee; and
- Makes recommendations related to ADA compliance, life safety, functionality, historical integrity and feasibility to meet current and future service needs.

### **What are the Findings of the Study to Date**

*WEST BRANCH:* (built in 1923, expanded in 1974, underwent an extensive planning process as part of a potential State of California-funded building grant process in 2004)

- The building has some structural and infrastructure damage that need attention. In addition, the Literacy office is severely constrained for a highly successful program, competing with branch community programming space.

*CLAREMONT BRANCH:* (built in 1924, expanded in 1975, ADA-related modifications in 2000)

- The historical and functional aspects of the branch would benefit from a renovation and completion of full lobby space though a minor expansion.

*NORTH BRANCH:* (built in 1936)

- The most heavily used neighborhood branch library, is substantially undersized for the needs of the North Berkeley area community, is not ADA accessible and lacks the infrastructure to meet current and future technology needs. Two options for modest additions to the rear of the building are proposed, the larger-size addition would allow for community meeting / library programming space.

*SOUTH BRANCH & TOOL LENDING LIBRARY:* (built in 1961 and expanded in 1974)

- This branch has serious structural defects that would make it susceptible to significant damage during a major seismic event. Further, its infrastructure systems – electrical, mechanical, and telecommunications - are not constructed to adapt to current needs and the space lacks adequate flexibility to meet minimal computer and seating needs of the community.
- The Tool Lending Library is one of the Library's most successful and popular programs; however, it is in dire need of additional space to store, display and repair the tools it loans. The construction of a new building would allow the development of a branch to meet the community's library needs and would significantly improve the tool library operation.

## What Are the Recommendations

The proposed program would significantly improve all four branches and the Tool Library. A \$26 Million bond measure would address seismic safety, accessibility, and the need for expanded space for services in the neighborhood libraries. The estimated cost to homeowners is \$33.00/year for a set period. Completing this work would bring the buildings up to current code standards; meet seismic requirements; make all of the branches fully accessible to Berkeley's diverse population; provide environmentally sustainable "green" operations; and create adequate space for the Tool Library, the adult literacy program, *Berkeley Reads* and at the North Branch to adequately serve the community now and into the future.

## Next Steps in the Process

### May 6, 2008

City Council Meeting 2134 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way 7:00pm

- City Council to continue discussion of Ballot Measure Voter Survey Results (conducted in April 2008) and possible measures to put on the November 2008 ballot

### May 14, 2008

Board of Library Trustees Meeting South Branch -1901 Russell 7:00pm

- The Board of Library Trustees to discuss and take possible action in recommending a *Neighborhood Libraries Bond Measure*

### May 20, 2008

City Council Meeting 2134 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way 7:00pm

- City Council to give direction for measures to be included on the November 2008 ballot

## Tell Us What You Think

Information on the Facility Planning process is available on the library's website at: <http://berkeleypubliclibrary.org/> under *Our Organization*.

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