



News Release
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BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY BEGINS FACILITIES MASTER PLAN FOR BRANCH LIBRARIES

In 2008 the Berkeley Public Library will undertake two major planning initiatives:

1. The development of a *Branch Library Master Facility Plan*, which will include assessing the current physical condition of the four branch libraries and the tool library and making recommendations concerning upgrades and modernization needs.
2. The creation of a three-year *Library Strategic Plan* that will describe Berkeley Public Library's long-range needs, goals, and service priorities.

These two initiatives are closely connected and are both expected to be completed FY2008. The Library has now begun the *Facilities Master Plan for Branch Libraries*. After requesting proposals from qualified consultants to assist in the development of a **20-year Library Facilities Master Plan (LFMP) feasibility study**, the Berkeley Public Library hired local firm Noll & Tam Architects to complete the study of branch libraries in Berkeley. Library administration has put together an Advisory Committee which has begun to meet in order to provide community input on the process: the Advisory Committee will help during key points in the process and by advising library staff. Advisory Committee member, School Board Director John Selawsky, remarked: "Jumping into this committee I can already see the experience and commitment that was gathered together. Architects, long-time library patrons and supporters, community members, disabled-community members and advocates: it's a solid committee, and I look forward to working together to generate some ideas and recommendations."

In January 2008 those visiting their neighborhood Berkeley branches will be able to fill out a Facilities Master Plan survey. The survey will also be available online after January 7, 2008, at www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org. Just follow the links to the [Our Organization](#) page to fill out the survey. Also available at that page will be a **Library Master Facilities Plan: Project Fact Sheet** and **Project Timeline** (see attached).

The final plan will provide relevant information to allow Library Administration and the Board of Library Trustees to set priorities and develop implementation scenarios. As with past library projects,

extensive public involvement related to the public's service needs will be vital to the success of the project. Open public meetings will be held to relate the results of the studies, and a report will also be made to the Board of Library Trustees in Spring 2008.

Berkeley's branch libraries must be flexible enough to address not only current, but also future, public service needs; therefore this project is focused on the capacity of the facilities themselves. The goal of the project is to develop pertinent facility information and knowledge that will further the ability of the Library to make solid strategic decisions regarding facility expenditures useful in the short term, and that will be considered a significant asset in developing plans for the future. The study will address the following areas:

- Assessing the physical ability of the branch libraries to serve the needs of the community
- Examining the potential of existing facilities to meet future facility use needs

Berkeley Public Library Foundation Executive Director Roxanne Figueroa states, "The Library Foundation excitedly awaits the results of the Library Master Facility Plan (LFMP). The LFMP will provide the basis for a plan to renovate our neighborhood branch libraries so that they truly reflect Berkeley's love for learning and pride in one of our most precious democratic institutions – the Berkeley Public Library. We congratulate the Library for establishing a comprehensive process that incorporates both the essential technical assessment of our branches but also vital input from the community."

Previous library studies related to the South Branch Library and the Ed Roberts Campus will be integrated into the final planning documents. Currently, the Library has also engaged a consultant, Hatchuel Tabernik & Associates, to **identify the needs of the Southwest Berkeley community** and the Library will also undertake a **Library Service** or **Strategic Planning process** during Winter and Spring 2008.

The 2006/2007 fiscal year has been an outstanding success for the Berkeley Public Library, and 2008 brings new long-range planning processes for an accessible, updated, and improved library with many opportunities for valuable input from our patrons. The Library looks forward to connecting with the community in the coming months to plan the future of the Berkeley Public Library.

For more information on these studies, including the Project Fact Sheet and Timeline (see attached), please phone (510) 981-6195, (510) 548-1240 (TTY), or go to http://berkeleypubliclibrary.org/about_the_library/our_organization.php

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