

AN OPEN LETTER FROM THE BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY TO THE BERKELEY COMMUNITY

We thank the Berkeley community for approving Measure FF, a local bond to make all four of Berkeley's neighborhood branch libraries and the Tool Lending Library seismically safe and ADA-accessible. Board of Library Trustees President Darryl Moore states, "We are thrilled at the passage of Measure FF, and we look forward to starting the process of working with all our neighborhood communities to ensure fabulous renovations of our library branches!"

In the new millennium, this is an epoch-making decision by Berkeley voters to support their public libraries into the 21st Century and beyond; and we realize that in such difficult economic times, it was no small decision to make this investment. We want to thank the voters in Berkeley for their thoughtfulness about this local Measure during an election when other decisions of enormous proportion were being made in Berkeley and across the land. Very few libraries were closed in the United States during the Great Depression, and, now, in our present difficult times, all our libraries will remain open as a positive and powerful help to people in Berkeley.

Berkeley's neighborhood branches belong to the entire community, and the Berkeley Public Library will work to improve the branch buildings and fulfill the vision of enhanced, comprehensive services and programs for library users that will come along with these branch improvements.

The Board of Library Trustees, the Berkeley Public Library, the Berkeley Public Library Foundation, and the Friends of the Berkeley Public Library held an event on Sunday, December 7, 2008, 3-5 pm, at North Branch Library to initiate the branch renovation projects to be funded by the bond measure, answer questions about building plans and thank Berkeley for its support. Over 100 attended. "Thank you, Berkeley, for supporting this community treasure and resource, and thank you for celebrating with us on this great day!" said Roxanne Figueroa, Executive Director of the Berkeley Public Library Foundation. "The Berkeley Public Library Foundation looks forward to launching its capital campaign to support the transformation of our branch libraries into state of the art, safe, green facilities that will strengthen our city's educational infrastructure for current and future generations to enjoy,"

Please keep in touch with the Library by phone, 510-981-6195 or 510-548-1240 (TTY), or over the web, www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org, to keep abreast of the Berkeley Public Library's progress with these vital projects.

Thank you,
Donna Corbeil, Director of Library Services
Berkeley Public Library