

2008

was a year that reinforced just how well-loved, appreciated, and important the Berkeley Public Library is to the community at large. In spite of the difficult economic times, voters this year passed Measure FF, the twenty-six million dollar bond measure that represents the culmination of the Library's collaborative process to evaluate library branch facility needs. The measure was guided by the Branch Library Facility Master Plan — developed with input from the community, staff, local organizations, business leaders, and other stakeholders — which details the current state of the branch libraries and outlines the changes necessary to bring these community cornerstones to their full potential. Over the next five years, the Library will use the bond funds to renovate, expand, and make seismic and access improvements, ensuring that the four neighborhood branch libraries continue to serve the needs of the community now and long into the future.

As we near the end of the new century's first decade, the Berkeley Public Library continues to be both a lasting cultural institution and a hub of community activity where knowledge, technological skills, creative talents, and equality of access thrive. The Library today is far more than a set of buildings filled with books — it is the focal point of our city's shared community values. The entire staff and I appreciate the continued community support the Library receives. It is a pleasure and an honor to serve Berkeley and share our accomplishments of the last year with you.

— 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.

Darryl Moore, City Councilmember and Chair
Carolyn Henry Golphin, Vice Chair
Susan Kupfer
Ying Lee
Terry Powell

www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org/about_the_library/bolt/bolt.php

Friends of the Library

The Friends of the Berkeley Public Library is an important nonprofit partner organization that supports the public library by funding educational, cultural, and outreach programs, including the annual Children's Summer Reading program. The Friends of the Library raises funds through the operation of two book sale outlets, one located in the lobby of the Central Library and a larger store on Channing Way, and in 2007, donated over \$84,000 to support free community programs and events. The Friends was a major financial supporter of Measure FF to renovate and make seismically safe the four neighborhood branch libraries and the Tool Lending Library.

Amy Roth, President, Board of Directors

www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org/about_the_library/support_the_library.php

Berkeley Public Library Foundation

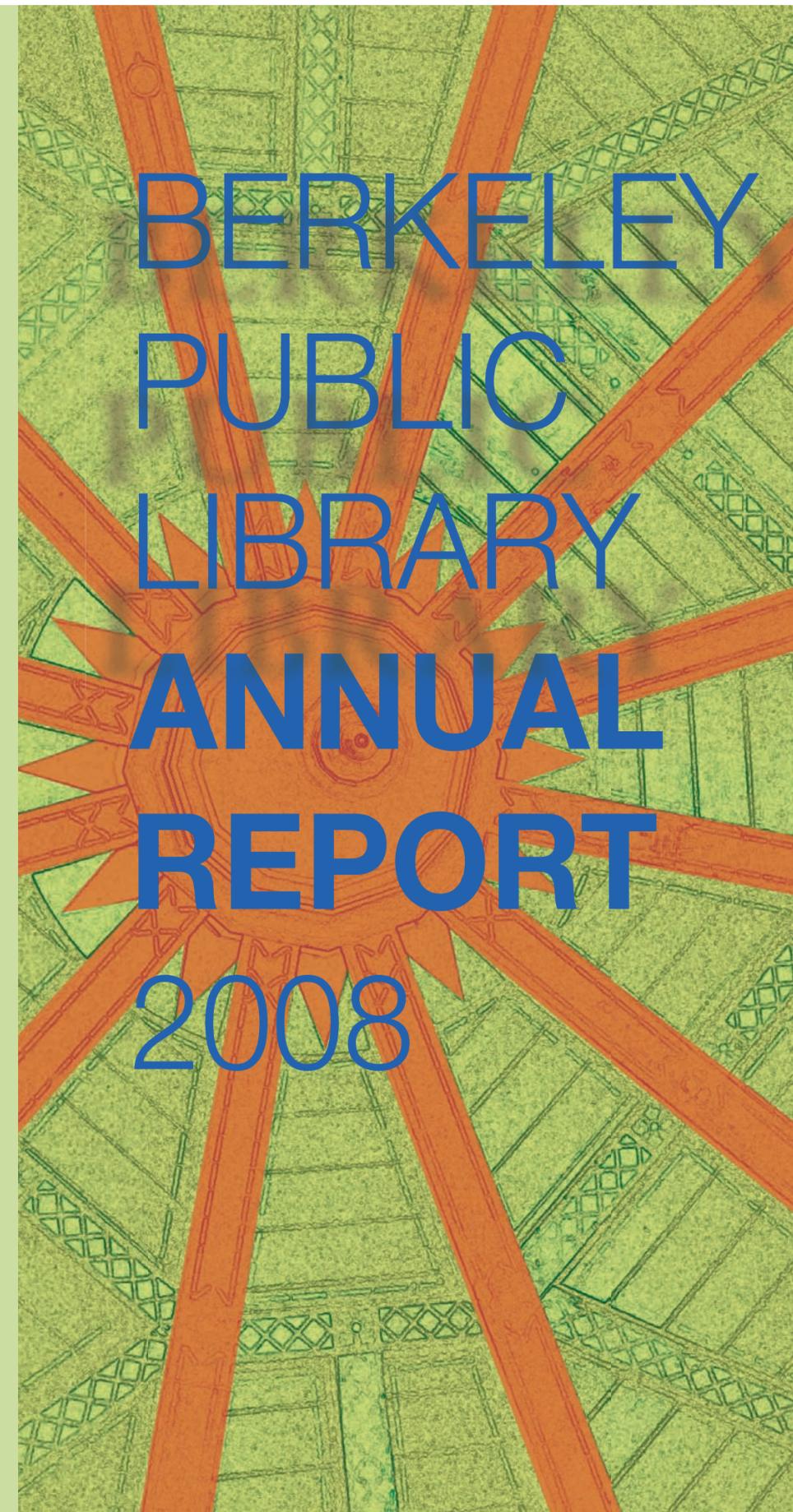
The Berkeley Public Library Foundation is a non-profit partner to the library. The Library Foundation engaged in a successful capital campaign for furnishings and equipment that helped transform the Central Library. With the passage of Measure FF, the Foundation is poised to play the same role for the four branch libraries. The Library Foundation holds the Annual Authors Dinner at the Central Library to celebrate the Bay Area's vibrant literary community and raise funds to support the Berkeley Public Library.

Christopher Adams, President, Board of Directors
Roxanne Figueroa, Executive Director

www.bplf.org

www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org

510/981-6100



Statistical Highlights

- During the 2007-2008 fiscal year 1,524,973 visits were made to the five Berkeley Public Libraries, an increase of 14% over the previous year. At the four neighborhood branches, the number of visits increased 19%.
- Circulation of materials from the Library's collections continues to rise. 1,745,605 items were borrowed by 84,513 registered borrowers, an 8.4% jump, and double the rate of increase over the previous year. With over 550,000 items, the total materials available are above 5 per resident, more than double the statewide average.
- Library patrons reserved 147,401 different books, DVDs, CDs, audiobooks, and other hoped-for items, which were delivered directly to users' most convenient location and set aside for them.
- The Library saw 933,782 visits to its "electronic branch," berkeleypubliclibrary.org, an average of over 2,500 people every day of the year. Visitors accessed subscription databases and e-books, which the Library provides free to cardholders, plus full-text journal articles, online tutoring and homework help, legal and computing e-textbooks, and online test practice.
- The Library held over 1,500 public programs, with a total attendance of 35,298 persons. Of these programs, 1,137 events were for preschool or school-age audiences, encouraging excellent reading habits and promoting lifelong library use among younger citizens.

Library Partnerships

Berkeley Public Library constantly expands its programs and services by forming partnerships that serve the whole community, increasing efficiency and amplifying program range and reach.

- As a result of a substantial grant awarded by the California State Library, the Library will partner with the Center for Digital Storytelling and Berkeley City College, among others, to produce an oral history exploration of Coming of Age in the Civil Rights Era: Experiencing Berkeley School Desegregation.
- The Library partnered with the Berkeley Art Museum/PFA to offer a 20% membership discount for Library card holders.
- The Library worked with the Berkeley Unified School District and the City of Berkeley, producing programs and exhibits to celebrate the Cesar Chavez Commemorative Period.



Service and Program Highlights

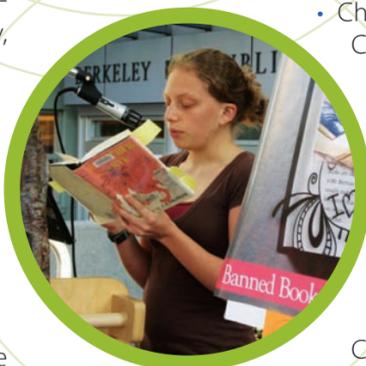
- Berkeley's youth are at the center of the Library's mission. Over the last year, librarians made 266 visits to local classrooms, speaking to over 7,200 school children, including every 2nd grade class in the Berkeley Unified School District about reading, and the great things they can find and do at their library. In addition, more than a hundred classes and 2,000 more students came to the Library. While emphasizing how enjoyable reading is, these visits also encourage students to build their reading skills.
- With the cooperation of District Middle Schools, branch teen librarians embarked on a series of "Lunchtime Surprises," visiting middle school libraries each week. Students made crafts and talked about books. It was also a prime opportunity to spread the word about middle-school aged activities and programs at the Berkeley Public Library.



Over 35,000 persons enjoyed the library's fascinating cultural, literary, and artistic events this past year:



- In celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the "Summer of Love," rock music historian Richie Unterberger presented two hours of rare film clips of some of the greatest musicians of the era: Jefferson Airplane, Janis Joplin, Pink Floyd, The Beatles, Sly and the Family Stone, Jimi Hendrix, and numerous other icons of the psychedelic age.
- The Berkeley Public Library participated in the Bay Area National Dance Week, screening the film *Mad Hot Ballroom* and providing free dance lessons in the historic Central Library lobby, taught by professional dance instructor Gale Robinson.



- Chuck Wollenberg, a professor at Berkeley City College, moderated a series of panel discussions for *Environmental Impact: Evolution of the Berkeley Landscape*, featuring local experts on a variety of subjects including *Environmental Justice*, *The New Deal in Berkeley*, *Environmental Perspectives on Development*, and *Building with Nature*.
- Library visitors and passersby enjoyed and participated in public readings in Library Plaza outside the Central Library, featuring works by Malcolm X, Cesar Chavez, James Joyce, writers from the WPA, among others, and of course, Banned Books.



Budget Summary

The Berkeley Public Library's major source of operating revenue is the Library Services Tax. The Library Tax rate for fiscal year 2008 was increased 4.43% in July 2007 based on the California personal income growth rate. In the November 4, 2008 election, voters in the City of Berkeley approved extending Library Tax spending through Fiscal Year (FY) 2012. The Library receives additional revenues, including grants, fines and fees, monetary gifts, donations from our support organizations and individuals, and awards from the California State Library.

Fiscal Year 2008 (July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008)

Year-end report (Library Tax)

final total revenues	\$13,313,481
final total expenditures	\$13,767,773
carry forward fund balance	\$807,072

Projections: Because of anticipated cost increases in contractual agreements related to operations and personnel cost, the Library took approximately \$500,000 in reductions in FY 2009 as a budget balancing measure. The Library Tax rate increase for FY 09 was set at 4.29%, but given the economic climate, the rate of future increases are unknown. The Library will continue to monitor economic conditions that may affect revenues and expenditures while maintaining our commitment to a balanced budget.

The implementation of the Branch Renovation projects, bond funded capital improvements, will begin in January 2009. These projects will be funded by the sale of city bonds in an amount not to exceed \$26 million.

Looking Ahead

Berkeley Public Library is engaged in a two-part planning process for its future. Guided by the Branch Library Facilities Master Plan, the library evaluated the capacity of the four branches and Tool Library to meet the current and future service needs of their communities. With the passage of Measure FF, we will begin to make the changes that our branch buildings so desperately need to make them safe and accessible.

The second part of the planning effort is the Strategic Plan. The Plan defines specific strategic goals and initiatives that will guide the allocation of resources over the next three years, to ensure that the Library delivers priority services. It builds on the planning work done in 2002-2004 and is based upon broad input from almost 2000 community members and staff obtained through a series of surveys, focus groups and interviews.