



# BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

REGULAR MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 15, 2010

AGENDA  
6:30 PM

SOUTH BRANCH  
1901 RUSSELL STREET

The Board of Library Trustees may act on any item on this agenda.

## I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

- A. **Call to Order**
- B. **Public Comments (6:30 – 7:00 PM)**  
*(Proposed 30-minute time limit, with speakers allowed 3 minutes each)*
- C. **Report from library employees and unions, discussion of staff issues**  
Comments / responses to reports and issues addressed in packet.
- D. **Report from Board of Library Trustees**
- E. **Approval of Agenda**

## II. PRESENTATIONS

- A. **South Branch Project – Measure FF - Design Team Update**
  - 1. Presentation by Field Paoli on the Schematic Design Phase
  - 2. Public Comment (on this item only)
  - 3. Board discussion
- B. **Staff Presentation –Technical Services – Megan McArdle**

## III. CONSENT CALENDAR

*The Board will consider removal and addition of items to the Consent Calendar prior to voting on the Consent Calendar. All items remaining on the Consent Calendar will be approved in one motion.*

- A. **Approve minutes of July 14, 2010 Regular Meeting**  
Recommendation: Approve the minutes of the July 14, 2010 regular meeting of the Board of Library Trustees.
- B. **Contract No. 8060 Amendment: Architectural Resources Group**  
Recommendation: Adopt a Resolution recommending the City Council authorize the City Manager to amend Contract No. 8060 with Architectural Resources Group, an architectural design firm, to provide for a 10% contingency allowance of \$68,295 to the expenditure authority, increasing the allowable not-to-exceed amount to \$751,245.
- C. **Contract No. 8061 Amendment: Field Paoli Architects**  
Recommendation: Adopt a Resolution recommending the City Council authorize the City Manager to amend Contract No. 8061 with Field Paoli Architects, an architectural design firm, to provide for a 10% contingency allowance of \$78,500 to the expenditure authority, increasing the allowable not-to-exceed amount to \$863,500.
- D. **Contract No. 7891 Amendment: Rene L. Cardinaux ,AIA, Consultant**  
Recommendation: Adopt a Resolution recommending the City Council authorize the City Manager to amend Contract No. 7891 with Rene Cardinaux AIA, a design consultant, to increase the expenditure authority by \$50,000, increasing the allowable not-to-exceed amount to \$100,000.

*Click on dashed links to view the item documents.*

**E. Resolution of Gratitude to Linda Perkins**

Recommendation: Adopt a resolution expressing gratitude to Linda Perkins, who served as a Supervising Program Librarian, Library Services Manager, and Acting Deputy Director for the Berkeley Public Library from December 1978 to September 2010.

**F. Contract No. 7508 Amendment: Freitas Landscaping**

Recommendation: Adopt a resolution authorizing an amendment to the contract with Freitas Landscaping to increase the expenditure authority by \$8,000, increasing the not-to-exceed amount from \$72,000 to \$80,000.

**IV. INFORMATION REPORTS**

**A. Update on the Branch Bond Program**

Discussion of staff report on status of implementation of the Measure FF branch improvement program, to include update on Request for Proposals, schedule and budget.

**B. September 2010 Monthly Report from Library Director**

- i. Library Development
- ii. Professional Activities
- iii. Programs, Services and Collections
- iv. Personnel

**C. Library events:** Calendar of events and press releases for various Library programs are posted at <http://www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org>

**V. AGENDA BUILDING**

The next meeting will be a Regular Meeting held at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, October 13, 2010 at the **South Branch Library, 1901 Russell Street, Berkeley.**

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

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Written materials may be viewed in advance of the meeting at the Central Library Reference Desk (2090 Kittredge Street), or any of the branches, during regular library hours.



“This meeting is being held in a wheelchair accessible location. To request a disability-related accommodation(s) to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Disability Services specialist at 981-6342 (V) or 981-6345 (TDD) at least three business days before the meeting date. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting.”

I hereby certify that the agenda for this regular meeting of the Board of Library Trustees of the City of Berkeley was posted in the display cases located at 2134 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way and in front of the Central Public Library at 2090 Kittredge Street, as well as on the Berkeley Public Library’s website on September 9, 2010.

//s//

Donna Corbeil, Director of Library Services  
Serving as Secretary to the Board of Library Trustees

For further information, please call (510) 981-6195.

### COMMUNICATIONS

Communications to Berkeley boards, commissions or committees are public record and will become part of the City's electronic records, which are accessible through the City's website. **Please note: e-mail addresses, names, addresses, and other contact information are not required, but if included in any communication to a City board, commission or committee, will become part of the public record.** If you do not want your e-mail address or any other contact information to be made public, you may deliver communications via U.S. Postal Service or in person to the secretary of the relevant board, commission or committee. If you do not want your contact information included in the public record, please do not include that information in your communication. Please contact the secretary to the relevant board, commission or committee for further information.

1. Kenji Nakadegawa
2. Sarah Hart
3. Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association



**Berkeley Public Library  
Board of Library Trustees**

**Regular Meeting  
July 14, 2010**

**MINUTES  
6:30 p.m.**

**Central Branch  
2090 Kittredge Street**

<b>I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS</b>
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**A. Call to Order**

The regular meeting of July 14, 2010 was called to order by Chair Kupfer at 6:30 PM.

**Present:** Trustees Winston Burton (arrived 6:35), Abigail Franklin, Carolyn Henry-Golphin (arrived 6:40), Susan Kupfer and Darryl Moore.

**Absent:** None.

**Also present:** Donna Corbeil, Director of Library Services; Douglas Smith, Deputy Director; Dennis Dang, Library Admin Manager; Alan Bern, Library Special Services Coordinator; Jason Dickinson, General Services Manager; Alicia Abramson, IT Manager; Suzanne Olawski, Branch Library Manager; Debbie Carton, Librarian, Art & Music; Lisa Hesselgesser, Library Specialist, West Branch, Eve Franklin, Administrative Secretary.

Richard Barnard, SEIU 1021;

David Snyder, Library Foundation; Reed Schmidt, Library Foundation;

Mary Ann Merker, Civic Arts Commission Secretary; David Snippen, Consultant;

Rene Cardinaux, AIA, Consultant; John Rosenbrock, Consultant; Steve Dewan, Kitchell CEM

**B. Public Comments**

1. Peter Warfield – Expressed concern about changes in the schedule for self-check replacement. Expressed concerns about proposed shelving reductions at Claremont. Asked one of the trustees to pull Information Items B (Update on the Branch Bond Program) & C (July 2010 Monthly Report from Library Director) to Discussion.
2. Elise White – Identified herself as a long-time Claremont Branch area resident. Expressed concern about proposed shelf space reductions for Claremont. Finds it peculiar that there wasn't a way to preserve room however unorthodox the shelving might have been, to maintain at least the books that are there now. The library is heavily used, the children's section has been very good. It is bustling with people reading and using it. Understand about regulations of space if you are going to remodel. Bathrooms are fine, but the point of libraries is not bathrooms but books.
3. Gene Bernardi / SuperBOLD – Asked one of the trustees to pull Information Item A (Self-Check / Material Security System RFP Update) to Discussion. Asked that the Library use a barcode system with books checked out by library aides instead of RFID. Suggested savings from choosing barcode instead of RFID could pay for several library aide positions. Also requested copies of studies/reports referred to in Information Item A.

**C. Report from Library employees and Unions, Discussion of Staff Issues**

1. Richard Barnard, SEIU 1021 – Read a statement to the Board of Library Trustees regarding Union response to Management proposal to add a new entry level position, expand the job duties of Library Aide and Library Assistant positions and to discussions regarding shelving. (Attachment #1)

**D. Report from Board of Library Trustees –Trustee Moore – Reported on his attendance at the ALA National Conference in Washington, DC. Illuminating and wonderful experience, sessions. Spoke with vendor of soon-to-be purchased bookvan. Had discussions regarding possible use of bio fuel and effect on manufacturer's warranty.**

- E. **Approval of Agenda**  
R10-052 **Moved by Trustee Henry-Golphin, seconded by Trustee Moore, to approve the agenda as presented.** Motion passed unanimously.

## II. PRESENTATIONS

### A. Update on Claremont Branch Project

Director Corbeil provided an update on the project and reviewed agenda report on this item. There have been no changes to exterior, elevations and landscaping since last meeting.

She reviewed boards showing changes: added a bench seating area on back wall in flex space. In response to concerns about shelving reductions adult area seating was reduced (elimination of 4 seat laptop bar and two 2-top reader table.) to allow an increase in shelving in adult areas.

Trustee Franklin – Thanked the director for the report and chart which explained tradeoffs that we've had to make and why. Explained that she is a Claremont neighbor and uses the branch. She expressed her approval of the plan.

- Why is teen collection reducing so much? *Director Corbeil – Teens seem to focus on using the library to do homework. Schools require them to provide electronic information. Much of their research source material is available online rather than in book format. If asked to choose, they often pick computers over books. There are now two computers in the new teen space so they won't have to compete with other people. Young Teen collection is in children's area near the flex space.*
- What is the reduction in the magazines? *Director Corbeil – a reduction in linear feet of shelving doesn't necessarily reduce the amount of items. Some materials are now available in electronic format. Most research of periodicals is now done using online databases, not with print materials like the Readers Guide to Periodicals. Many magazines are available online in full text format and are searchable. A core collection of the most popular items will be displayed for browsing and checkout.*
- How does the Claremont collection compare to other branches? *Director Corbeil – The chart is about linear shelving feet not the size of the collection. Highly used collections don't need as much linear shelving space as they are constantly moving. Our goal is to have a well used collection. Branch needs/usage vary from branch to branch. Branch staff is really tuned into what patrons want and work to provide it.*

Trustee Burton – Finding more and more that libraries are about finding information. Much of the information is now available online. There have been lots of changes in how information is stored and shared, both in the library and elsewhere.

Trustee Moore – At the ALA Conference there was great emphasis on technology and what resonates with young people and how to encourage young people to come into the library, it's all about computers. These kind of bonds come around every generation. In planning for a library, we have to plan for the future, where technology and trends are going. Berkeley is about independent living and disability rights. We're celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ADA this year. The fact that we're going to have compliant bathrooms and spaces for our staff and at the same time make this a viable, very welcoming branch library is very important.

Trustee Henry-Golphin – Had some questions when reading the report, but as we've been talking about it, I trust that we're at the point where we have to deal with the space we have in the best way possible. We need to look beyond the immediate needs. We are where we need to be. I trust that this is going to give us the best possible result for the community.

Chair Kupfer asked the director to talk about how the programming process took place. *Director Corbeil – During the Facility Master Plan we surveyed patrons at each branch and online. Many responses mentioned not enough seating and the need for a place away from home. A Programming Consultant was hired and met with staff to discuss needs and attended community meetings where a variety of patrons provided comments and feedback. Architects have met and continue to meet with staff to fine-tune the program and the layout.*

Chair Kupfer – How are collections developed for each branch? *Director Corbeil – Collections evolve over time. Branch staff order for their specific branches. Each branch is neighborhood centric to some extent with centralized coordination of ordering, etc.. Library staff respond to what people ask for. They try to have something for everybody. Branch libraries will continue to evolve over time to meet changing needs.*

**B. Art Opportunities for the North and Claremont Branch Library Measure FF Projects – Donna Corbeil & David Snippen (Consultant)**

Director Corbeil introduced Mary Ann Merker, Civic Arts Coordinator.

David Snippen, Consultant described the public art process.

Claremont and North Branches have a short time frame to select and install art work due to the construction process beginning in early 2011. Art has to meet time frames for contractors. Claremont and North branches will use an invitational process to get artists to submit ideas. The invitational process is one of the three allowable city methods for soliciting public art. Nominating Committee and Selection Panel will be made up of representatives of the Civic Arts Commission, Landmarks Preservation Commission, BOLT, project Architect and if possible a member of each branch library staff.

The process will start with the Nominating Committee (for both branches combined) to develop a list of artists and curators from the Bay Area. Committee members will do field trips to the branches to view art opportunities.

Each branch has different opportunities for public art. Public art must be permanently attached to the building. Need to choose what is appropriate for each branch.

A budget been set for each branch. 1.5% of the construction costs for each branch. Claremont branch has a budget of \$29,000 and North Branch has a budget of \$40,000.

The selection process is a public process. Meetings will be publicly announced. Selection Panel will review artist proposals and make recommendations to the Civic Arts Commission and BOLT. Discussed Board member participation on Nominating Committee and Selection Panel. Trustees Franklin and Burton volunteered to serve on Nominating Committee, and Trustee Franklin for Claremont and Trustee Burton for West Selection group.

Once the art is selected the Selection Panel would make a recommendation to BOLT and the Civic Arts Commission. BOLT would approve artist contracts.

**C. City's Local Purchasing Policy and Practices – Dennis Dang**

Dennis Dang described CoB and BPL purchasing policies. (Attachment 2) BPL's purchasing policy is consistent and uniform with COB's. Library Director's purchase limits are identical to that of the City Manager. There is a *Local Business Preference Program* for goods and services under \$25,000. Vendors with a Berkeley fixed office or distribution point get 5% allowance; their bid can be 5% higher than a non Berkeley vendor. Purchasing Manual policy requires a formal bid process for purchases over \$25,000. City Charter requires purchase of supplies, equipment or materials in excess of \$100,000, "shall be let to the lowest responsible bidder..." Under the *First Source Program*, city staff work to promote hiring of local workers on publicly funded projects and non-construction jobs that are created after construction is complete. City has initiatives to support local buying and hiring such as West Berkeley Enterprise Zone Extension, Downtown Area Plan – Green Pathway and East Bay Green Corridor Partnership.

Chair Kupfer – Acknowledged Trustees Burton and Henry-Golphin efforts to bring topic to the Board's attention. Local Purchasing Policy gives a framework for considering what our options are.

Trustee Burton – Local hire/local vendors is very important. Need to bring this up sooner rather than later so we do not loose opportunities. We need to look at how we can maximize the programs that exist or perhaps look at strategies that don't exist. There are opportunities for training, opportunities to work with groups that are in the community like First Source, CoB Office of Economic Development and others.

Trustee Henry-Golphin – We need to consider City Charter issues. Have spoken with Berkeley Chamber about Buy Local. This is much bigger than Buy Local. Need to continue open dialogue to help this process. We want to bring as much revenue and support to local businesses and residents. This needs to be an ongoing conversation.

Trustee Moore –We have some opportunities. The fact that we are talking about this early will help us as we move forward. Discussed City and Council efforts and possible opportunities to address the need to promote local labor and business.

Chair Kupfer – Need to focus on pragmatic steps. Need to come up with concrete ideas to present to the city council. She suggested liaison with Office of Economic Development, First Source, Contract Language and Capturing ideas from Federal level.

Chair Kupfer suggested a subcommittee can set up a meeting with City Manager, Phil Kamlarz and City administrative staff to discuss what their ideas are and how we can move forward.

Trustee Burton to chair sub-committee, will report back in Fall.

### III. CONSENT CALENDAR

Board Members gratefully acknowledged the Friends of the Berkeley Public Library's generous donation to the Foundation Campaign.

- R10-053 Moved by Burton, seconded by Trustee Henry-Golphin, to approve the consent calendar as presented. Motion passed unanimously.**
- A. Approve minutes of May 25, 2010 Special Meeting**
- R10-054 Moved by Burton, seconded by Trustee Henry-Golphin, to approve the minutes of the May 25, 2010 special meeting of the Board of Library Trustees as presented. Motion passed unanimously.**
- B. Approve minutes of June 9, 2010 Regular Meeting**
- R10-055 Moved by Burton, seconded by Trustee Henry-Golphin, to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2010 regular meeting of the Board of Library Trustees as presented. Motion passed unanimously.**
- C. Friends of the Library Donation to the Library Foundation Capital Campaign**
- R10-056 Moved by Burton, seconded by Trustee Henry-Golphin, to adopt a resolution acknowledging the Friends of the Berkeley Public Library's generous pledge to contribute \$150,000 to the Berkeley Public Library Foundation's Neighborhood Libraries Campaign. Motion passed unanimously.**
- D. Elimination of Renewals on Magazines**
- R10-057 Moved by Burton, seconded by Trustee Henry-Golphin, to adopt a resolution to adopt a policy to limit the circulation of magazines and periodicals to one checkout. Motion passed unanimously.**
- E. Central Library Layout Improvement Project**
- Brief discussion on scope as it related to signage.
- R10-058 Moved by Burton, seconded by Trustee Henry-Golphin, to adopt the resolution approving the Central Library Service Improvement Project as described and approve expenditure of gift funds in an amount not to exceed \$205,150 for this purpose. Motion passed unanimously.**
- F. Grant Funds to Document Literacy Mural at West Branch**
- R10-059 Moved by Burton, seconded by Trustee Henry-Golphin, to adopt a resolution to accept \$750 in grant funds from Pacific Library Partnership to fund project documenting the creation of the West branch murals. Motion passed unanimously.**
- G. Innovative Interfaces, Inc. Renew Contract for Hardware and Software Maintenance Services**
- R10-060 Moved by Burton, seconded by Trustee Henry-Golphin, to adopt a resolution to authorize the Director of Library Services to renew the existing agreement with Innovative Interfaces, Inc. for the provision of**



hardware and software maintenance services for the Library's circulation system for the period of July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011 in a not to exceed amount of \$150,000, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$300,000 for fiscal years 2010 and 2011. Motion passed unanimously.

#### IV. INFORMATION REPORTS

**A. Self-Check / Material Security System RFP Update** - Alicia Abramson & Jason Dickinson provided an update on the Self-Check / Material Security System RFP. A significant staff effort has been underway over the last eighteen months to identify and replace our current 3M Checkpoint self-check and materials security system. The report provides background of the current situation that we are in and an overview of the evolution of technologies specifically having to do with security in the library.

The trustees discussed staff's report. Progress is ongoing.

**B. Update on the Branch Bond Program** – Director Corbeil reported the City Council approved the Book mobile purchase. We'll hire a graphic designed to design the exterior wrap and explore bio-diesel options. Upcoming Meetings: ZAB – Use Permit for Claremont and North. Donna to communicate meeting dates to Board members, these are also posted on the city's webpage.

**C. July 2010 Monthly Report from Library Director** – no discussion.

- i. Library Development
- ii. Professional Activities
- iii. Programs, Services and Collections
- iv. Personnel

**D. Library events:** Calendar of events and press releases for various Library programs are posted at <http://www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org>

#### V. AGENDA BUILDING

**A.** The next meeting will be a Regular Meeting held at 6:30 PM on Wednesday September 15, 2010 at the South Branch Library, 1901 Russell Street, Berkeley.

1. September 15 Regular Meeting (possible topics for the agenda)
  - West Branch Update

#### VI. ADJOURNMENT

**R10-061** Moved by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee Henry-Golphin, to adjourn the regular meeting of the board at 8:15 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

#### COMMUNICATIONS

1. Kim Anno re Arts Commission
2. Robbin Henderson re Arts Commission
3. Andrea Seagall re: 3M waiver
4. Eric Brenman, Peace and Justice Commission re Nuclear Free Waiver for the 2-year 3M Contract Granted to the Berkeley Public Library
5. Irina Stuart: North Branch encyclopedia
6. Robert Abiad: Branch Improvement program



July 14, 2010

SEIU 1021 Statement to the Board of Library Trustees

The Union thanks the Board for keeping this slot open for us at your meetings. Our absence from this spot is indicative of the harmonious relationship we've enjoyed for the past few years.

We're here to update the Board on recent Union activities at the Library, primarily our response to Management's proposal to add a new entry level position and expand the job duties of two of our Bargaining Unit positions, Library Aide and Library Assistant.

The Union began to survey the membership and received an overwhelming response against the proposal. One of our members was pulled aside and verbally reprimanded for the language of the survey.

On June 30<sup>th</sup>, SEIU 1021 sent a letter to cease and desist of harassment and intimidation of Union members. We did receive a response on July 8<sup>th</sup> - you can request a copy from administration.

Last Thursday, July 8<sup>th</sup>, SEIU 1021 sent a formal request to meet and confer over this proposal since its impacts will be felt throughout all of the departments. We still haven't received a response to this request.

Lastly, a shelving discussion took place on Friday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, where at least 30 Union members voiced their disapproval of the proposal. They also made good alternative suggestions for how to deal with our current shelving challenge in more cost effective ways, many of which are already in place.

Our next scheduled Joint Labor Management Committee meets tomorrow. The Union looks forward to working collaboratively and creatively with Management to come to a resolution.



## **Buy and Hire Berkeley**

Preferential Policies

Board of Library Trustees – July 14, 2010

## **City Manager's Purchase Limits**

**As a charter city Berkeley has adopted limitations to expenditures (Charter Article XI, Sections 67 and 67.5)**

- Limits established by Berkeley Municipal Code 7.18.010
- Services up to \$50,000
- Goods, materials, and equipment up to \$100,000
- Construction up to \$200,000
- Otherwise City Council approval required
- Published in City Purchasing Manual

## **Library Director's Purchase Limits**

To achieve consistency and uniformity with the City it is general practice that the Library Director's purchase limits be set identically to that of the City Manager.

- Services up to \$50,000 (BOLT R08-56)
- Goods, materials, and equipment up to \$100,000 (BOLT R09-94)
- Otherwise BOLT approval required
- Published in Library Purchasing Manual

## **Local Business Preference Program**

**Covers Only a Subset of Allowable Purchases**

- Adopted by Resolution No. 51,813-N.S. on June 7, 1983
- Goods and non-professional services under \$25,000
- 5% allowance with a Berkeley fixed office or distribution point

## Local Business Preference Program Objective

"...to increase local business participation in meeting City of Berkeley needs for goods and services and to stimulate the economy in general."

- Facilitate the stabilization of existing businesses
- Encourage the development of new businesses
- Increase employment for residents
- Generate revenue from license fees and sales taxes

City Manager to Mayor and City Council on June 7, 1983

## Issues with Purchases

- City Charter: Section 67 states expenditures in excess of the limitation established by ordinance for each specific improvement and each purchase of supplies, equipment or materials in excess of \$100,000, "shall be let to the **lowest responsible bidder**..."
- Cost of the Program: Higher the contract value, greater is the allowable differential to that other than the lowest bidder.
- Purchasing Manual policy requires a formal bid process (RFP/IFB) for purchases over \$25,000
- Correspondence to California Public Contract Code

## Hire Berkeley

**First Source** is a program that actively engages City staff in the promotion and hiring of local jobseekers on local and publicly funded construction projects, in addition to non-construction jobs that are created after construction is complete.

## First Source

### **Connects local and regional job opportunities to our residents**

Job order forms are directed to the First Source office at 1947 Center Street

- Staff refers qualified potential applicants; and
- Staff works with local employment and training programs to ensure local residents have the opportunity to apply

Contractors and Developers retain the flexibility to hire Berkeley residents through their union hall or other outreach services



## Issues with Preferential Hiring

**Non-Discrimination** B.M.C.13.26.050 provides the means for the City Manager or authorized delegate to review for non-discrimination pursuant to provisions contained within the City Charter.

If discrimination is believed to have occurred there are two options available:

- City may require, the submittal of an affirmative action program
- Or, a covenant be provided by the bidder that it will employ minorities and women in each craft in numbers equal to the percentage of minorities and women available in each craft in the County of Alameda.

**Project Labor Agreement** A negotiated pre-hire contractual agreement between one or more labor organizations and the project owner that sets terms and conditions of employment for a specific construction project. Issues commonly addressed include hiring, compensation and benefits, and an agreement preventing any strikes, lockouts, or other work stoppages.

**Prevailing Wage** Labor codes pertaining to prevailing wage requirements are outside of the purview of the Board of Library Trustees.

## City Initiatives

### West Berkeley Enterprise Zone Extension Downtown Area Plan – Green Pathway East Bay Green Corridor Partnership

Supports Local Buying and Hiring

Regional Cooperation (w/Oakland, Emeryville, Richmond, UCB, LBNL)  
Tax Credits and Incentives

Housing

Green Jobs

Green Job Training and Placement





## BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

### CONSENT CALENDAR

September 15, 2010

**To:** Board of Library Trustees

**From:** Donna Corbeil, Director of Library Services

**Subject:** CONTRACT NO. 8060 AMENDMENT: ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES GROUP, INC.

#### RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a resolution recommending to the City Council that the City Manager be authorized to amend Contract No. 8060 with Architectural Resources Group, Inc. to provide for a 10% contingency allowance of \$68,295 to the expenditure authority; thereby, increasing the contract's allowable not-to-exceed amount to \$751,245.

#### FISCAL IMPACT

Funding for this amendment is to be provided by the Measure FF Fund (308). No negative impact on other funds or the bond fund is anticipated.

#### BACKGROUND

On January 16, 2009, a Request for Proposals (RFP) titled *Architectural Services for the Renovation and Expansion of the North Branch Library* was issued, following a vetting process and presentations to the board, the firm of Architectural Resources Group, Inc. (ARG) was selected as best meeting the criteria for the North Branch project and therefore to be recommended to the City Council for contract execution.

On May 20, 2009 the board by resolution R09-41 approved a recommendation to the City Council to approve a contract with ARG. On June 23, 2009 the City Council under Resolution No. 64,514-N.S. authorized the City Manager to execute Contract No. 8060 with Architectural Resources Group, Inc. for architectural and engineering services for the North Branch Library improvement project with funding provided by Bond Measure FF. The contract terms were in an amount not to exceed \$682,950.

#### CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Architectural Resources Group, Inc. is providing architectural services for the North Branch Library improvement project. To date, the Design Development phase of the project has been completed; and on June 18, 2010 the firm initiated the Construction Document phase. The design firm has consistently met their contractual agreement and been available for meetings and consultations as needed.

An amendment is needed as the original contract did not include a contingency provision; although, staff has factored such costs into the project budget. Consequently, as currently contracted, all



architectural service funds have been fully allocated. Staff recommends an additional \$68,295 or 10% contingency based on the original contract amount be added. The result will be a revised not-to-exceed amount of \$751,245, to provide for a 10% contingency to the executed contract.

The current situation, of no contingency poses potential extended program delays in the event of an unanticipated event that requires additional funds for resolution. In response, and moreover as a precautionary measure of good practice for a project of this scope and duration, staff recommends the inclusion of a built-in contingency amount to the contract.

Attachments:

1. Resolution



**BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES**

III Consent, Item B  
Attachment 1

**RESOLUTION NO.: R10-065**

**CONTRACT NO. 8060 AMENDMENT: ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES GROUP, INC.**

WHEREAS, the Branch Library renovation program is funded by Measure FF bond funds approved by the voters on November 4, 2008 to finance the renovation, expansion, and make seismic and access improvements at four neighborhood branch libraries; and

WHEREAS, architectural design services are included in the estimated project costs for the North Branch project; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley Purchasing Department opened the Requests for Proposals process for *Architectural Services for the Renovation and Expansion of the North Branch Library*, on January 16, 2009 and closed said solicitation on February 12, 2009; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Library Trustees interviewed the three most qualified firms at the March 11, 2009 regular meeting, and at a special meeting on March 13, 2009 by Resolution R09-23 designated Architectural Resources Group, Inc. as the preferred firm best meeting the criteria for the North Branch project; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Library Trustees at a special meeting on June 10, 2009 by Resolution 09-51 recommended to the City Council approval for execution of a contract and any amendments with Architectural Resources Group, Inc. for architectural and engineering services for the North Branch Library improvement project in an amount not to exceed \$682,950 through December 31, 2011.

WHEREAS, the City Council on June 23, 2009 by Resolution No. 64,514-N.S. authorized the City Manager to execute Contract No. 8060 with Architectural Resources Group, Inc. for architectural and engineering services for the North Branch Library improvement project; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends the contract be amended to include a 10% contingency provision to provide for any unanticipated event(s); and

WHEREAS, the cost for a 10% contingency provision for the contract will be \$68,295; and

WHEREAS, funds are available in the Measure FF Fund in budget code 308-9301-45.65-70; and the CMS number is CAFMD.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Library Trustees of the City of Berkeley adopt a resolution recommending to the City Council that the City Manager be authorized to amend Contract No. 8060 with Architectural Resources Group, Inc. to provide for a 10% contingency allowance of \$68,295 to the expenditure authority; thereby, increasing the contract's allowable not-to-exceed amount to \$751,245.

ADOPTED by the Board of Library Trustees of the City of Berkeley at a regular meeting held on September 15, 2010 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTENTIONS:

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Susan Kupfer, Chairperson

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Donna Corbeil, Director of Library Services  
Serving as Secretary of the Board of Library Trustees





## BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

### CONSENT CALENDAR

September 15, 2010

**To:** Board of Library Trustees  
**From:** Donna Corbeil, Director of Library Services  
**Subject:** CONTRACT NO. 8061 AMENDMENT: FIELD PAOLI ARCHITECTS

#### RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a resolution recommending to the City Council that the City Manager be authorized to amend Contract No. 8061 with Field Paoli Architects to provide for a 10% contingency allowance of \$78,500 to the expenditure authority; thereby, increasing the contract's allowable not-to-exceed amount to \$863,500.

#### FISCAL IMPACT

Funding for this amendment is to be provided by the Measure FF Fund (308). No negative impact on other funds or the bond fund is anticipated.

#### BACKGROUND

On January 16, 2009, a Request for Proposals (RFP) titled *Architectural Services for the Replacement or Renovation and Expansion of the South Branch Library* was issued, following a vetting process and presentations to the board, the firm of Field Paoli Architects was selected as best meeting the criteria for the South Branch project and therefore to be recommended to the City Council for contract execution.

On May 20, 2009 the board by resolution R09-41 approved a recommendation to the City Council to approve a contract with Field Paoli. On June 23, 2009 the City Council under Resolution No. 64,513-N.S. authorized the City Manager to execute Contract No. 8061 with Field Paoli Architects for architectural and engineering services for the South Branch Library improvement project with funding provided by Bond Measure FF. The contract terms were for an amount not to exceed \$785,000.

#### CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Field Paoli Architects is providing architectural services for the South Branch Library (and Tool Lending Library) improvement project. To date, the Design Development phase of the project has been completed. The design firm has consistently met their contractual agreement and been available for meetings and consultation as needed.



An amendment is needed as the original contract did not include a contingency provision; although, staff has factored such costs into the project budget. Consequently, as currently contracted, all architectural service funds have been fully allocated. Staff recommends an additional \$78,500 or 10% contingency based on the original contract amount be added. The result will be a revised not-to-exceed amount of \$863,500, to provide for a 10% contingency to the executed contract.

The current situation of no contingency poses potential extended program delays in the event of an unanticipated event that requires additional funds for resolution. In response, and moreover as a precautionary measure of good practice for a project of this scope and duration, staff recommends the inclusion of a built-in contingency amount to the contract.

Attachments:

1. Resolution





**BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES**

**RESOLUTION NO.: R10-066**

**CONTRACT NO. 8061 AMENDMENT: FIELD PAOLI ARCHITECTS**

WHEREAS, the Branch Library renovation program is funded by Measure FF bond funds approved by the voters on November 4, 2008 to finance the renovation, expansion, and make seismic and access improvements at four neighborhood branch libraries; and

WHEREAS, architectural design services are included in the estimated project costs for the South Branch project; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley Purchasing Department opened the Requests for Proposals process for *Architectural Services for the Renovation and Expansion of the South Branch Library*, on January 16, 2009 and closed said solicitation on February 12, 2009; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Library Trustees interviewed the three most qualified firms at the March 11, 2009 regular meeting, and at a special meeting on March 13, 2009 by Resolution R09-24 designated Field Paoli Architects as the preferred firm best meeting the criteria for the South Branch project; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Library Trustees at a special meeting on May 20, 2009 by Resolution R09-41 recommended to the City Council approval for execution of a contract and any amendments with Field Paoli Architects for architectural and engineering services for the South Branch Library improvement project in an amount not to exceed \$785,000 through December 31, 2011.

WHEREAS, the City Council on June 23, 2009 by Resolution No. 64,513-N.S. authorized the City Manager to execute Contract No. 8061 with Field Paoli Architects for architectural and engineering services for the South Branch Library improvement project; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends the contract be amended to include a 10% contingency provision to provide for any unforeseen event(s); and

WHEREAS, the cost for a 10% contingency provision for the contract will be \$78,500; and

WHEREAS, funds are available in the Measure FF Fund in budget code 308-9301-45.65-70; and the CMS number is IYTDK; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Library Trustees of the City of Berkeley adopt a resolution to recommend to the City Council that the City Manager be authorized to amend Contract No. 8061 with Field Paoli Architects to provide for a 10% contingency allowance of \$78,500 to the expenditure authority; thereby, increasing the contract total not-to-exceed amount to \$863,500.

ADOPTED by the Board of Library Trustees of the City of Berkeley at a regular meeting held on September 15, 2010 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTENTIONS:

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Susan Kupfer, Chairperson

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Donna Corbeil, Director of Library Services  
Serving as Secretary of the Board of Library Trustees





## BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

### CONSENT CALENDAR

September 15, 2010

**To:** Board of Library Trustees  
**From:** Donna Corbeil, Director of Library Services  
**Subject:** CONTRACT NO. 7891 AMENDMENT: RENE CARDINAUX, AIA, LLC

#### RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a resolution recommending to the City Council that the City Manager be authorized to amend Contract No. 7891 with Rene Cardinaux, AIA, LLC by increasing the expenditure authority by \$50,000 in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 for the provision of design oversight and coordination consulting services for the Branch Library Improvement Program.

#### FISCAL IMPACT

Funding for this amendment is to be provided by the Measure FF Fund (308). No negative impact on other funds or the bond fund is anticipated.

#### BACKGROUND

On March 24, 2009 the Library entered into Contract No. 7891 with Rene Cardinaux, AIA, LLC for a not-to-exceed amount of \$50,000 for the period January 12, 2009 through January 14, 2012.

From the initiation of the Measure FF Program, Mr. Rene Cardinaux, AIA has been engaged to provide architectural design and coordination oversight services. His expertise during the architectural design phase of the Branch Library Improvement Program has been invaluable. Integral to these services he participates in project related meetings and review of layout and construction document plans and other relevant documents according to the work plan specified in the contracted scope of services. Mr. Cardinaux's involvement in this project provides critical advice and recommendations concerning design issues, and other matters relating to library design development specific to achieving the goals of the Measure FF branch bond program.

#### CURRENT SITUATION

The continued services of this consultant is advantageous to the completion of the projects, as design development and construction documents for the four projects have not yet been completed. Mr. Cardinaux possesses a breadth of similar project experience and extensive specialized expertise and knowledge unavailable from other internal sources. In addition, Mr. Cardinaux possesses the professional facilitation and management skills needed to work efficiently and effectively with design



team members, City staff, and the project management firm engaged, as well as the specialty consultants and vendors working on the project.

While an attempt was made at the initiation of the program to determine the expenditure for the consultant's services through the completion of the architectural design phase, the program's complexity and multiple project sites has necessitated a greater degree of involvement than initially projected. It would be advantageous to the program's success to have the consultant continue his participation at meetings and provide his expert assistance until the conclusion of the program's design phase.

Following City Council approval, the contract amount will be amended in an amount not to exceed \$100,000; thereby, allowing continued consulting services related to the ongoing architectural design and construction of the branch library facilities.

Attachments:

1. Resolution



**BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES**

**RESOLUTION NO.: R10-067**

**CONTRACT NO. 7891 AMENDMENT: RENE CARDINAUX, AIA, LLC**

WHEREAS, the Branch Library renovation program is funded by Measure FF bond funds approved by the voters on November 4, 2008 to finance the renovation, expansion, and make seismic and access improvements at four neighborhood branch libraries; and

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2009 the Library entered into Contract No. 7891 with Rene Cardinaux, AIA, LLC for architectural design, review, and coordination services for a not-to-exceed amount of \$50,000 for the period from January 12, 2009 through January 14, 2012; and

WHEREAS, the Library seeks to engage the consultant in ongoing services to include participation in program related meetings, review of layout and construction documents and plans and other relevant documents, provide expert advice and coordination on design issues, and other matters relating to library design and construction for the four branch library projects included in the Measure FF branch bond program; and

WHEREAS, the cost for these additional services related to the Branch Library Improvement Program will be performed at currently contracted hourly rates on an as-needed-basis and is estimated at \$50,000 for a revised total contract amount not-to-exceed \$100,000; and

WHEREAS, funds are available in Measure FF Fund (308) in budget code 308-9301-450.65-70; and the CMS number is PUCIL.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Library Trustees of the City of Berkeley adopt a resolution to recommend to the City Council that the City Manager be authorized to amend Contract No. 7891 with Rene Cardinaux, AIA, LLC in an amount of \$50,000 for a revised not-to-exceed amount of \$100,000 for the provision of additional library design review and coordination related services.

ADOPTED by the Board of Library Trustees of the City of Berkeley at a regular meeting held on September 15, 2010 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTENTIONS:

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Susan Kupfer, Chairperson

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Donna Corbeil, Director of Library Services  
Serving as Secretary of the Board of Library Trustees





**BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES**

**RESOLUTION NO.: 10-068**

**THE BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES EXPRESSES ITS PROFOUND GRATITUDE TO LINDA PERKINS, WHO SERVED AS SUPERVISING PROGRAM LIBRARIAN, LIBRARY SERVICES MANAGER, AND ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR THE BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY FROM DECEMBER 1978 TO SEPTEMBER 2010.**

WHEREAS, 32 years ago in 1978 Ms. Perkins began working at the Berkeley Public Library as a Supervising Program Librarian and has overseen the Library's services to young people continuously since then; and

WHEREAS, during the course of those years, Ms. Perkins has worked closely with and in support of Library staff led by six Library Directors: Regina Minudri, Adelia Lines, Marylou Mull, Jackie Griffin, Roger Pearson, and Donna Corbeil; and

WHEREAS, on several occasions when the need arose and she was asked, Ms. Perkins stepped into the role of Acting Deputy Library Director, demonstrating her willingness to take on tremendous workloads with the goal of maintaining managerial constancy; and

WHEREAS, among her many early stops along the road to leadership positions in libraries were jobs as a carhop—among the last of a dying breed—and a “broken thread counter” in a German cotton factory; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Perkins' achievements in the Library profession beyond Berkeley's boundaries are many and bountiful; including service as chair of the Newbury-Caldecott Award Committee; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Perkins devotion to the cause of libraries has involved extensive service on the American Library Association's Council and terms as President of the Association for Library Services to Children (ALSC); and

WHEREAS, Ms. Perkins has for decades been a prolific and astute reviewer of children's literature for many publications, including the New York Times, the San Francisco Chronicle, Wilson Library Bulletin, Booklist, and School Library Journal; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Perkins has spent her career being closely involved in the communities she has worked in, and in Berkeley has built long term, productive relationships between the Library and the local schools, childcare organizations, and parenting groups; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Perkins lifelong passion for encouraging a love of learning and reading in the young people of her community has inspired countless library patrons, parents, teachers, school librarians, and colleagues; and

WHEREAS, under her stewardship, the Berkeley Public Library's services to young people continue to be recognized as exceptional, and have reached the highest standards of responsive, committed services; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Perkins is admired by her colleagues as possibly the most avid, knowledgeable baseball fan at the Berkeley Public Library, retaining a steadfast loyalty to the American League, a love of the Oakland Athletics, and a healthy antipathy for the New York Yankees; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Perkins ready wit and winning humor are among the many qualities that make her a beloved coworker; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Perkins will be greatly missed by those who work with her.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Library Trustees of the City of Berkeley expresses its gratitude to Linda Perkins for her service to the Berkeley community and the Berkeley Public Library.

ADOPTED by the Board of Library Trustees of the City of Berkeley at a regular meeting held on September 15, 2010.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTENTIONS:

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Susan Kupfer, Chairperson

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Donna Corbeil, Director of Library Services  
Serving as Secretary to the Board of Library Trustees





## BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

### CONSENT CALENDAR

September 15, 2010

**TO:** Board of Library Trustees  
**FROM:** Donna Corbeil, Director of Library Services  
**SUBJECT:** CONTRACT AMENDMENT: FREITAS LANDSCAPE & MAINTENANCE

#### RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a resolution authorizing the Director of Library Services to amend the value of contract no. 7508 with Freitas Landscape & Maintenance for the provision of landscape maintenance services at the branch libraries of the Berkeley Public Library by an incremental amount of \$8,000 for a total contract not-to-exceed amount of \$80,000.

#### FISCAL IMPACT

Funding for these services are budgeted in the FY11 adopted and revised budgets of the Library Tax Fund (301). The CMS number is LFAQB.

#### BACKGROUND

Freitas Landscape & Maintenance is providing landscape maintenance services at all four branch library locations under contract no. 7508 for the period from January 10, 2008 through January 10, 2011 at an initial not-to-exceed amount of \$72,000. At the time of the contract's execution the Library made a best efforts estimation of a not-to-exceed valuation for services to be rendered during the contract's duration. Authorization for the contract was granted by the Board of Library Trustees on January 9, 2008 by BOLT Resolution R08-08 in an amount not to exceed \$72,000.

Landscaping services provided by Freitas Landscape & Maintenance under the agreed scope of services are outside the scope of the Library's two person maintenance staffs' job description. Moreover, performance of landscaping duties by the in-house maintenance staff would have a negative impact on their ability to complete other operational duties. To date, Freitas Landscape & Maintenance has performed its work satisfactorily and in accordance with the terms established in the contract, ensuring a safe and aesthetically pleasing environment at each branch location.

#### CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Contract no. 7508 with Freitas Landscape & Maintenance is for the period of January 10, 2008 through January 10, 2011 and will have exceeded its not-to-exceed amount of \$72,000 on payment for services as of September 2010.



FUTURE ACTION

None.

Attachments:

1. Resolution



**BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES**

**RESOLUTION NO.: R10-069**

**CONTRACT NO. 7508 AMENDMENT: FREITAS LANDSCAPE & MAINTENANCE FOR LANDSCAPING  
MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR BRANCH LIBRARIES**

WHEREAS, on January 9, 2008 the Board of Library Trustees authorized the Director of Library Services to execute a contract and any amendments with Freitas Landscape & Maintenance to provide landscape maintenance services at the four library branch locations of the Berkeley Public Library for an amount not to exceed \$72,000 for the period from January 10, 2008 through January 10, 2011; and

WHEREAS, at the time of contract execution the Library made a best efforts estimation of a not-to-exceed valuation for services to be rendered during the contract's duration; and

WHEREAS, the current not-to-exceed valuation on the contract will provide for services through September 2010; and

WHEREAS, the cost for services up to the contract's expiration date of January 10, 2011 is projected at \$8,000 for a revised amount not to exceed \$80,000; and

WHEREAS, funds are budgeted for landscaping services in the Library Tax Fund (301), CMS number LFQAB; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Library Trustees of the City of Berkeley to authorize the Director of Library Services to execute a contract amendment and approve payments with Freitas Landscape & Maintenance for the provision of landscape maintenance services at the four library branch locations of the Berkeley Public Library for a revised amount not to exceed \$80,000 for the period from January 10, 2008 through January 10, 2011.

ADOPTED by the Board of Library Trustees of the City of Berkeley at a regular meeting held on September 15, 2010 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTENTIONS:

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Susan Kupfer, Chairperson

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Donna Corbeil, Director of Library Services  
Serving as Secretary to the Board of Library Trustees





## **BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY**

### **INFORMATION CALENDAR**

September 15, 2010

**TO:** Board of Library Trustees

**FROM:** Donna Corbeil, Director of Library Services

**SUBJECT:** SEPTEMBER 2010 MONTHLY BRANCH IMPROVEMENT PROJECT REPORT FROM LIBRARY DIRECTOR

### **INTRODUCTION**

Every month the Library Director gives the Board a report on branch improvement activities and updates from the previous month.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

This report will have no fiscal impacts.

### **SUMMARY OF WORK**

Meetings held during this reporting period include:

- Weekly project meetings facilitated by the KCEM project manager, Steve Dewan or Bob Fusilier
- Meeting with City's Planning Department and architects as needed

No community meetings were held over the summer, but in early September a West branch community meeting was scheduled and held on September 11, 2010 at 12:00 noon at the West Branch Library.

### **COMMUNICATION**

Staff continues to prepare and distribute for community meetings and BOLT meetings involving branch bond projects. Banners for community and BOLT meetings where design presentations and discussions will occur are hung at the branch to advertise the meeting location, date and time.

In early September the library's website was revised to include a page for each project to better facilitate the posting of updates and visuals and to make it easier for the community to locate information and to comment on the projects.



## FISCAL

On July 13, 2010 City Council approved the expenditure of Measure FF funds for the acquisition of a Library Book-van in an amount not-to-exceed \$83,200 and the re-designation of a 25'-0" Yellow-Curbed Parking Zone on Bancroft Way to Exclusive Grey-Curbed Library-Use Only Parking.

On June 22, 2010 City Council approved the FY 2011 tax rate for the Measure FF G.O. bond. This was the second reading.

More information on these items may be found on the city's website under City Council, by selecting the appropriate meeting date: <http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/>

## PROJECT UPDATES:

### *OTHER CITY AGENCIES, BOARDS AND BODIES*

#### CoB City Council

The City Council at their regular meeting of July 7, 2010 approved, at the second reading, the following item brought by the Planning Commission related to the Measure FF program: Zoning Ordinance Amendment to Allow Development Flexibility for Existing Public Libraries.

This action resulted in the adoption on the second reading of Ordinance No. 7,148–N.S. to add BMC 23C.04.076 allowing (1) existing public libraries to be changed, expanded, or demolished and a new public library constructed, and (2) modification of any Zoning Ordinance requirement applicable to such projects with a Use Permit, rather than a Variance.

More information may be found on the city's website under City Council:

<http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/>

#### Zoning Adjustment Board

At the regular July 22, 2010 meeting of the Zoning Adjustment Board, the hearing on the Claremont and North Branch projects was continued. Following discussion and public comment both permits were approved by the board.

2940 Benvenue Avenue – Claremont Branch Library, Use Permit # 10-10000027

1170 The Alameda – North Branch Library, Use Permit # 10-10000028

More information may be found on the city's website under Zoning Adjustments Board:

<http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/>

Since that time the Library has been notified that these Permits have been appealed to the City Council. The appeals will be heard by the Council at the regular meeting of October 26, 2010.

#### Planning and Development

Information regarding environmental impact analysis undertaken by the CoB Planning and Development Department staff related to library projects may be available on the City of Berkeley website at: <http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/ContentDisplay.aspx?id=362>



Postings are managed by the Planning Department but at this time include the following:  
Zoning Amendments for Public Libraries

[http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/uploadedFiles/Planning\\_and\\_Development/Level\\_3\\_-\\_Land\\_Use\\_Division/2010-05-26\\_IS\\_Library%20Amendments.pdf](http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/uploadedFiles/Planning_and_Development/Level_3_-_Land_Use_Division/2010-05-26_IS_Library%20Amendments.pdf) and  
[http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/uploadedFiles/Planning\\_and\\_Development/Level\\_3\\_-\\_Land\\_Use\\_Division/2010-05-26\\_ND.pdf](http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/uploadedFiles/Planning_and_Development/Level_3_-_Land_Use_Division/2010-05-26_ND.pdf)

South Branch Library, Initial Study

[http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/uploadedFiles/Planning\\_and\\_Development/Level\\_3\\_-\\_Land\\_Use\\_Division/2010-06-10\\_IS\\_1901%20Russell.pdf](http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/uploadedFiles/Planning_and_Development/Level_3_-_Land_Use_Division/2010-06-10_IS_1901%20Russell.pdf)

West Branch Library, Initial Study – TBD

#### Design Review Committee

South Branch Library team made a presentation on July 15, 2010:

<http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/ContentDisplay.aspx?id=56542>

The West Branch design team will make a preliminary presentation to the Committee on September 16, 2010.

More information, including meeting agendas and minutes may be posted on the City of Berkeley website under DRC: <http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/ContentDisplay.aspx?id=12678>

#### *PUBLIC ART*

David Snippen, the consultant assisting with the civic art projects for the Claremont and North branch projects called two meetings of the planning group over the summer. An update on the status of the projects is expected in early Fall 2010.







## BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

### INFORMATION CALENDAR

September 15, 2010

**TO:** Board of Library Trustees  
**FROM:** Donna Corbeil, Director of Library Services  
**SUBJECT:** SEPTEMBER 2010 MONTHLY REPORT FROM LIBRARY DIRECTOR

### INTRODUCTION

Every month the Library Director gives the Board a report on Library activities and updates from the previous month.

### FISCAL IMPACT

This report will have no fiscal impacts.

### PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

The Library was invited by ULC (Urban Library Council) to participate in an event being held on August 14, the Craigslist Foundation Boot Camp on the University of California, Berkeley campus. *The Craigslist Foundation Boot Camp is a gathering of 1,500 passionate people to strengthen their communities and neighborhoods and a fun, intensive one-day conference where participants will learn to bring their ideas for empowered communities into reality. Participate in interactive workshops, meet people who can turn dreams into action, receive expert coaching, and get fired up by stories of successful community transformations.* Deputy Director, Doug Smith attended and represented the library as a panelist (Attachment 1).

Berkeley Public Library is joining libraries across the state in participating in "Snapshot: One Day in the Life of California Libraries" on October 5, 2010, to show how important academic, public, school, and special libraries and library systems are to the state of California. This Snapshot Day has been developed by the California Library Association (CLA).

On October 5, 2010, the Library will compile statistics, users' comments, photographs, and other data chronicling a typical library day. The results collected at Berkeley Public Library will be added to those of other libraries across California, by CLA, to show how libraries provide invaluable services to California citizens. We are also planning several programs that day for patrons of all ages. We will be take photos and collect comments to share with the State Library.



## PROGRAMS, SERVICES AND COLLECTIONS

### *Summer Reading Programs*

Report by Joy Shiohita, Senior Librarian, Teen Services on this year's program: This year 156 teens signed up for BPL's summer reading. Participants submitted 377 book reviews, many of which are posted on BPL's teen blog. The variety of attractive prizes donated by local businesses increased interest and follow-through in the program. The keychain wallet imprinted with artwork by one of the library's teen workers also proved an appealing incentive prize.

Teen Services offered ongoing programs during the summer. The department also scheduled eight special summer programs, which attracted 103 attendees. BPL hosted its first Chocolate Extravaganza for teens and received a generous donation from the Poco Dolce chocolate shop in San Francisco. Happy attendees tasted chocolate and played chocolate-themed games, including strategizing how to unwrap a Hershey's kiss while wearing oversized oven mitts.

### Interesting facts:

- Given a choice of raffle prizes, multiple zealous teen readers identified their first choice as *Mockingjay*, a popular new novel, coveting a copy above a \$50 gift card from Comic Relief bookstore.
- Of the 377 teen book reviews received, 251 were submitted on paper forms, rather than online.

A report on the children's summer reading program is attached (Attachment 2).

### *Adult Services*

The SF Chronicle printed an article on August 1, 2010, about how libraries are branching out into job hunting centers. Unfortunately, it did not include BPL, but our staffs are doing a lot. At the Central Library, staff has coordinated Small Business Development Counsel classes which are always well attended, these include topics such as, how to make a living as an artist; hosted the SCORE business counseling sessions; held workshops using the Foundation Center collection, such as finding funding for education; and held basic computer classes. In the branches people can access the collections, both print and electronic databases and use the public computers for everything from searching job ads to writing their resume.

### *Other Activities*

The fifth annual library staff art and craft show is scheduled to begin September 28, through October 25<sup>th</sup> at the Central Library.

The Children's Department has been working on a new website that will be more user-friendly and inviting to young people. It was launched over the Labor Day weekend and features a new mascot.

## FACILITIES/ OPERATIONS & PERSONNEL

### *Labor Day staff picnic*

On the sunny, warm day of September 6th, a large group of BPL staff and their families gathered for an informal and enjoyably mellow day in the shady redwoods of Codornices Park for the Staff Labor Day picnic. With an abundance of food at the grill and beverages to share, it was a good opportunity for BPL workers to see and enjoy each other's company off the work



site in one of Berkeley's most beautiful parks. Thanks are due the Friends of the Library for covering the cost of the picnic site rental, to Doug Smith and Marti Morec for organizing the event, and to all the attendees who brought delicious food and drink to celebrate Labor Day and say farewell to the Summer of 2010.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Doug Smith's report
2. Summer Reading 2010 report



Prepared by Doug Smith, Deputy Director

Craigslist Foundation Conference

On Saturday August 14th, Deputy Director Douglas Smith appeared with other Northern California public library leaders as part of a panel discussion, "Innovations in Community and Civic Engagement", which was part of the Craigslist Foundation's 2010 Boot Camp at UC Berkeley. This event is an annual, intensive one-day conference with interactive workshops, seminars, and panel discussions made up of a broad range of nonprofit organizations addressing a multitude of ways that non-profits, governmental entities, and NGOs strengthen communities and neighborhoods. The panel on which Doug appeared was organized by the Urban Libraries Council (ULC) and moderated by Susan Benton, ULC's CEO/President. Other panelists included Rivkah Sass, Director of the Sacramento Public Library; Melinda Cervantes, Executive Director and County Librarian of the Santa Clara County Library; and Cathy Sanford, Deputy County Librarian of the Contra Costa County Library. The topic was how public libraries serve many critical roles often overlooked or not recognized by leaders within the community. From playing a key role in education, driving economic development initiatives, and providing space for teens, immigrants, seniors and many other special groups, libraries are a safe and trusted space for every individual and group within the community. In this interactive session, Doug and his fellow panelists involved participants in a lively discussion on libraries as an anchor for community engagement and shared innovative partnerships to further civic discourse.

The panelists each in turn highlighted for the largely non-librarian Zellerbach Playhouse audience a variety of means that their libraries have made use of to enrich their communities, whether they be urban places like Berkeley or Sacramento, or large geographic areas such as Contra Costa County with urban and rural service areas. Doug focused principally on BPL's Digital Oral History project *Personal Stories of the Berkeley School Desegregation 1964-68* as a particularly unique and compelling example of community engagement and illustrative of the sort of innovative role public libraries are increasingly playing for their patrons in the present day. Sacramento's Rivkah Sass summarized the program well when she stated that today's public libraries are "not your grandmother's library." In attendance was Stacy Aldrich, the California State Librarian.

More information on the event may be found at:  
<http://craigslistfoundation.org/boot-camp/>

The BPL's project videos from the *Personal Stories of the Berkeley School Desegregation* may be checked out from any branch, viewed on the library web site, or seen at an upcoming public screening and symposium to be moderated by Berkeley historian Charles Wollenberg on Saturday November 6th at the Central Library's Community Meeting Room.



## 2010 Summer Reading Game Report

Prepared by Erica Dean Glenn

Senior Librarian, Children's Department

Our 2010 Summer Reading Game, *Make a Splash, Read!* was a grand success. Central alone had 246 signups in the first week. Each location reported heavy sign up activity in the first weeks of the program, and children were still signing up to participate until the last possible day for sign ups.

In May and June, Children's Librarians from Central and the Branches visited every Berkeley Unified School District elementary school to promote the program to children in Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. This year, summer reading ran from the last day of school, June 18, through August 14.

Preliminary statistics show **more than 1440 children enrolled in the Summer Reading Game system wide, with 911 children completing the program requirements** of reading for 10 hours, 10 books, or 1,000 pages, and visiting the library 3 times. This year, we had 171 more children complete the program than we had last year. We will have more complete figures by the end of September, when one of our Children's Librarians returns from family leave.

**Upwards of 1400 children, parents and caregivers attended our 28 Summer Reading events**, including very successful Science Festivals put on by the Lawrence Hall of Science at the Central, North and West branches. We had 160 people total at the three festivals. 5 additional Science Kits were also unveiled at the Science Festivals. These are intended to promote science literacy by circulating books and simple science activities that can be done at home. Topics include weather, what lenses do to light, observing nature, and experimenting with ways to clean up oil spills. Other programs included meeting animals with Wildlife Associates, an amusing Pirate Themed puppet show with Puppet Art Theater, songs about water and the environment in English and Spanish with Zun Zun, folk and cowboy songs with a Children's twist by the Prairie Rose Band, and a hula performance by Halau O'Keikiali'i. We also were happy to collaborate with Joy Shiohita, from and Debbie Carton to put on our popular intergenerational Peace Day crane folding program, which featured original koto music and a reading of the story *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes*, featuring the Teen and Adult Playreaders. Together with a generous donation of folded cranes, families attending the program were able to fold enough cranes for us to send 1,000 cranes to Japan to hang at the statue of Sadako Sasaki at the Hiroshima Peace Park.

Our summer volunteer program for students entering grades 6-8, Student Friends had lower participation than last year, but those that participated were extremely enthusiastic and helpful. Student Friends wrote book reviews for the Student Friends newsletter, shelfread, wrote thank you letters to organizations who provided prizes, cleaned picture books, created display posters, and helped set up for programs, among other tasks. **At least 50 kids signed up as Student Friends, 34 completing their 5 hours of volunteering, for a 69% completion rate total for all five locations.** We appreciated all the work the kids contributed, whether it was for one hour or the full five hours.





## @Berkeley Public Library

Summer Event Series Continues  
@ Berkeley Public Library's  
North Branch  
1170 The Alameda at Hopkins

In this free Food-Focused event series, patrons are encouraged to bring a potluck item to share.  
First in the series:

July 15—Jessica Prentice, author of Full Moon Feast, cofounder of Three Stone Hearth speaks on the Community Supported Kitchen.

For more info on the Summer Series, call 510-981-6250 or go to <http://berkeleypubliclibrary.org/weblog/files/FNAL710.pdf>

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## Readers Say the Darndest Things

### BEST NEW CAUSE

#### Fight to end human trafficking

There are more slaves today than any other time in human history. This is happening on our own soil in a country that is supposed to be the land of the FREE! — *calchriissy*

#### Immigration reform and health-care reform

Vote no to Arizona's approach and yes to healthcare for all. — *BB*

#### Slow Money Alliance

It's really time to invest at home — in the things you use every day, the people you know, or the places where you shop and dine — much like a vote with your fork. Bring your money home. SlowMoneyAlliance.org. — *joyce Sigman*

### BEST PICKUP SPOT

#### Alameda Dog Park

It may be a cliché, but wouldn't you rather meet someone who has a dog like you, than someone who drinks? — *BethLM*

#### Grocery Outlet

Nothing says sexy and desperate like frugality. — *santopeligro*

#### International Blvd. and High St.

100% Success rate! — *haildaqueen*

#### The bar at the UC Faculty Club

If you like dating the tweedy, rumples type! — *GailChiarello*

### BEST PLACE TO GET LOST

#### Albany Bulb

Also in the running for Best Place to Drop Acid. — *Oakonnor*

#### Berkeley Pathways

[BerkeleyPaths.org](http://BerkeleyPaths.org) — *cathypants*

#### East Bay Regional Parks District

I have! Many times! — *balanceman*

### BEST PLACE TO HANG OUT

#### Any of our spacious backyards.

Suck on that San Francisco! — *jay-tothesea*

### BEST RISING POLITICAL FIGURE

Gayle McLaughlin, Mayor of Richmond

Green Party mayor; takes not a dime of corporate money. — *richmond*

ative layer to the saga. Nevertheless, watching a senior trounce a mass transit assailant continues to strike millions of viewers as divine justice.

### BEST GUERRILLA KNITTER

## Sile Convery

Knit-One-One, 3360 Adeline St., Berkeley, 510-891-1355, [KnitOneOne.com](http://KnitOneOne.com)

Knitting as social commentary: Who knew? This past spring, guerilla knitter Sile (Gaelic spelling for "Sheila") Convery led the stealth charge in making an eight-foot "T" cozy for the "THERE" part of Berkeley's "HERE/THERE" sculpture on Martin Luther King Jr. Way. For a while, both cities could claim the honor of being "HERE," that is, until Berkeley cracked down and made Convery and her troupe of dangerous renegades remove the piece. Ah well. The Irish-born Convery chalks it up to experience and continues to happily run her Berkeley craft center, Knit One One, which offers classes ("Knitting 101," "Summer Knits," "Switch Knitting," or crochet or color spinning), workshops (e.g., "Sewing and Fibers" — you too can make a felt toy cat with a skeleton face), and "Mystery Knit" parties and outings. Convery's got yarn chops — goodness, she knit a pair of underwear when she was eight — so those inclined to gentler forms of civil disobedience can put themselves in her capable hands.

### BEST OLD-FASHIONED SMALL TOWN ATMOSPHERE

## Martinez

[CityofMartinez.org](http://CityofMartinez.org)

While fifty-plus years of suburban sprawl seems to have washed away much of Contra Costa County's rural character, it never quite reached the county seat of Martinez. Incorporated in 1876, the friendly town of around 36,000 is nicely situated along a lovely stretch of the south shore of the Carquinez Straits, not far from the Martinez-Benicia Bridge. The city's well-preserved, pedestrian-friendly downtown seems unchanged from when baseball legend Joe DiMaggio was born there in 1913. Around that time, pioneering environmentalist John Muir was spending his last years in a towering, lovely Victorian at the southern edge of town. Drinking folklore claims that the first martini was stirred in Martinez. Despite the Gothic-looking Shell refinery on its eastern edge, Martinez is surrounded by many parks and open space preserves, including one of the East Bay's best parks, Briones. The city has worked hard to preserve its blue-collar, small-town atmosphere — even making room for beavers — but old-fashioned doesn't mean square. Two unique entertainment offerings are the Martinez Opera and the Magic Dinner Theater, plus summer music and art festivals, and for bikers, the Contra Costa Canal trail. There's nothing hurried about Martinez. Here, time stops to take a breather.

### BEST RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

## Rossmoor

1001 Golden Rain Rd., Walnut Creek, 925-988-7700, [Rossmoor.com](http://Rossmoor.com)

Rossmoor is a beautiful, 1,800-acre gated retirement community in the Tice Valley of Walnut Creek. Residents live in a variety of

— a large, fit, elderly man — draws the ire of a younger gentleman. Words are exchanged, and the younger assailant strikes Bruso, who unleashes a whirlwind of punches. Bruso is also wearing an "I Am Motherfucker" shirt at the time. International attention promptly followed, and Bruso's complicated past of abuse, homelessness, alcoholism, and run-ins with the police added a somber, exploit-

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## While libraries plan improvements, not all approve

Jul 21st, 2010

by [Frances Dinkelspiel](#).



Interior of Claremont branch of the Berkeley Public Library.

On Tuesday afternoon, the main reading room of the Claremont branch of the [Berkeley Public Library](#) was crowded. All four of the library's computers were occupied, and patrons clustered at the wooden tables scattered around the building.

During the last few years, about 160,000 people have come annually to the Claremont branch to check out books, surf the web, listen to authors speak, or to attend children's story time. It's a reflection of the business of the overall library system: in fiscal 2009-2010, about 1.5 million patrons checked out a record 2 million books, DVDS, CDs, audio books, magazines, tools, and more from the entire public library system. About 800,000 of those visits were at the branch libraries.

For the last two years, ever since the 2008 passage of Measure FF, a \$26 million bond, Berkeley [has been preparing to renovate](#) its overcrowded, worn, and seismically unsafe branch libraries. On Thursday, the Zoning Adjustments Board is expected to approve a number of permits that will allow the renovation and expansion of the Claremont and North branches.

The ZAB will vote on whether the library can increase the Claremont's footprint from 60% to 63% of the lot, and whether it can install a large bay window in the rear that will jut out into the required 15-foot rear yard. The board will also vote whether the city can add a 3,850 square foot addition to the North Branch Library.



If the permits are approved, the Claremont and North branches will shut in the spring of 2011. When the Claremont branch reopens in 2012, the original 1923 section of the library will be seismically strengthened. A large window will be installed in building's historic entryway facing Benvenue Avenue. The 1974 addition (starting to the left of the front door) will be torn down and rebuilt, adding an additional 340 square feet to the branch. There will be new bathrooms, more computers, and a new reference desk.



Sign outside Claremont branch announcing renovation plans.

When the North branch reopens, there will be a new, two-story wing facing Josephine Street. There will be a large community meeting space with a separate entrance on the ground floor. There will also be an increased number of computers and places to sit upstairs.

Despite the lure of spanking new buildings, not everyone is happy with the proposed renovations.

Peter Warfield, who heads up a San Francisco-based group called the Library Users Association, points out that the Claremont renovation will actually reduce the number of books shelved at the branch. Warfield, who believes the Public Library Board has not been sufficiently transparent in its plans for the branch renovations, said the Claremont will see a 23% decrease in shelving. He calls this a "book de-emphasis".

"We note that the library's plan to cut ... shelving ... is equal to eliminating more than 60 bookcases, each one three feet wide and five shelves high," Warfield wrote to the Berkeley Planning Commission in May.

Berkeley library officials acknowledge that shelf space will be reduced in the Claremont branch but dispute Warfield's characterization of the situation. The Claremont branch site is constrained, and is the only branch that will see a loss of books, they said. The overall number of books in the system will not decline.

Part of the issue is that the definition of a library is changing in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Patrons now want more than books. They want more computers, more online databases, more movies and CDs, and more meeting space. The proposed renovations reflect those demands, according to Alan Bern, the community relations librarian.

The library has also expanded its relationship with regional libraries with its [Link + system](#). If the Berkeley Public Library does not have a book, it can get one quickly, said Bern.

"We are a small city public library," said Bern. "In a PhD-heavy town, we are never going to have all the books people want to see. We can get any book anyone needs within two to three days."

Warfield said that approach amounts to a dumbing down of the library system. "I find it shocking that a library would put out its Link + program as an adequacy," said Warfield. "A library would want to have as many books as they could. It doesn't make sense to get books from elsewhere instead of having your own books."

While the two branch libraries are closed, library officials plan to run a bookmobile around town as a stop-gap measure, said Douglas Smith, the deputy director of the library. When patrons reserve books online, they will be able to pick them up at the bookmobile, which probably will be parked near the closed branch libraries.

When the Claremont and North branches reopen in 2012, the West and South branches will shut. Both those buildings will be torn down and rebuilt.

ZAB will vote Thursday to issue the permits, but the approvals will not go into effect until August 9. That is the date that a new law passed recently by the City Council goes into effect. The law permits the libraries to only obtain permits, rather than variances, for the branch renovations.


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Posted in: [Architecture](#), [Library](#).


Tagged: [Alan Bern](#) · [Berkeley Public Library Branch Improvement Program](#) · [Douglas Smith](#) · [Library Users Association](#) · [Peter Warfield](#)

← [The Berkeley Wire: 07.20.10](#)  
[Where in Berkeley?](#) →


#### 4 Comments

1.  *Peggy* says:  
[July 21, 2010 at 9:41 am](#)


Meeting room space is a huge public service that the Berkeley Public Library provides to local non-profits and community groups. The North Branch desperately needs such a space; the Claremont branch meeting space is very awkward and will hopefully be improved. Both Russell St. and the West branch have decent meeting spaces. These improvements should be considered as important factors in the debate. Libraries are a centerpiece of the community; shelf space is important but is not the only factor to consider. The Claremont branch is obviously a tight fit in its neighborhood and cannot be all things to all people but it is a wonderful resource with a great feel, both interior and exterior. Shelf-space isn't everything.

2.  *Library Patron* says:  
[July 21, 2010 at 4:53 pm](#)

I wanted to confirm that the Link+ system at BPL is outstanding. (I've used it many times.) Most all books not to be found at BPL can be found at other libraries. And the wait to have that book delivered is about 2-4 days. Berkeley might be a small town but our plans are big and encompass a big-town vision smaller than, but comparable to, The New York Public Library.

3.  *Diane* says:  
[July 21, 2010 at 7:15 pm](#)

I love the library, but LINK+ is not the same as inter-library loan (which was discontinued completely), and many more obscure volumes are no longer available to us. It's a good system, but NY Public it is not.

4.  *Laura* says:  
[July 23, 2010 at 8:22 am](#)

BPL seems to be following a Barnes& Nobel approach. Unusual and hard to find books are being weeded and the collection is really being dumbed down. There are some books I have used that are no longer in the system, nor are they available on line. The reference section at my branch (North) has been decimated. We are told to go online to get our information and considering how much money we pay in taxes, that is truly offensive. This is a community that loves and supports its library. Upgrading buildings is fine, but please lets not dumb down our collections.



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## Page One

### **BAHA Opposes Library Demolitions; Council Approves Zoning Waiver for Library**

*By Peter Warfield (Partisan Position)*  
Monday July 26, 2010



Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association (BAHA) has taken a formal position opposing demolition of Berkeley Public Library's (BPL's) South Branch Library, in a letter sent to the Planning Department earlier this month.

Meantime, the City Council on July 6 approved the library's permanent exemption from having to obtain variances for existing buildings that are to be renovated or demolished and replaced, and the Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) July 22 voted to approve use permits for Claremont and North Branch libraries, subject to the City Council's exemption taking effect August 9. The use permits would allow the library to move forward with its renovation plans for the two libraries.

The library's plans for Claremont Branch included a cut of 913 linear feet of shelving for books and materials, which is 23% of the library's figure for existing shelving of 4,098 linear feet. However, in a modest victory for critics of the cuts, the library's director, Donna Corbeil, said at the July 14 meeting of the Board of Library Trustees that the the shelving cuts would be

reduced. An attachment to the agenda showed a net shelving reduction of 574 linear feet, still a substantial number. The cuts would affect shelving for everything except Teen Magazines, Children "Programming," and Holds (material from other library branches or library systems), which are to be increased by 34, 90, and 96 feet, respectively. The collection and media categories would be cut for all categories of users: adults, teens, and children.

In addition to formal opposition on South Branch, expressed in comment on an upcoming Environmental Impact Report, BAHA's president, Daniella Thompson, writes in the online *BAHA News* dated July 21, 2010, "We are dismayed to learn that the Library Board of Trustees is planning to demolish two branch libraries: West Berkeley and South Berkeley." She adds, "The Library Bond Measure FF, which passed in the November 2008 election, promised an altogether different outcome."

Thompson goes on to say that "The West Berkeley Branch Library (William K. Bartges, 1923) was designated a Structure of Merit in 2003, and any application for a demolition permit should require CEQA review and a public hearing before the Landmarks Preservation Commission."

South Branch, Thompson writes, "designed by John Hans Ostwald in 1960, is one of Berkeley's Mid-Century Modern gems."

Measure FF said the following: "Shall the City of Berkeley issue general obligation bonds not exceeding \$26,000,000 to renovate, expand, and make seismic and access improvements at four neighborhood branch libraries, but not the Central Library, with annual reporting by the Library Board to the City Council?"

Measure FF made no mention of demolition.

According to a Planning Department memo to the City Council, the City Attorney has since advised that Measure FF funds may not be used for demolition, but could be used to rebuild libraries if funding for demolitions came from another source. As noted in a previous Commentary, the Planning Department said that this advice had been given orally, not in writing.

Numerous members of the public have spoken at public meetings and written letters opposing the library's plans, particularly the demolitions.

At the City Council's July 6, 2010 meeting, Council Member Susan Wengraf asked Director of Library Services Donna Corbeil "why the recommendation has been made that the two branches be demolished rather than be restored." Ms. Wengraf said, "it would be useful for [the public] to know."

Ms. Corbeil replied as follows, according to the city's unofficial text file provided by Certified Realtime Reporter [Note: "sic" means we are quoting what was written, even though it may not appear to be quite right]:



“I am Donna Corbeil, director of the library. I think to speak to them together doesn’t do either one of those projects together [sic]. But the South Berkeley branch, we had extensive discussions there about the library and the architect looked at many options of trying to make that a functional library, to have as much square footage as we possibly could, and as you know there are two libraries also there. And brought forward several different options to the community, including keeping a portion of the current building. We also met I think at least three times with a subcommittee of the landmarks preservation commission to discussion [sic] the projects and options under consideration and held community meetings. It became clear in order to maximize that space to have as much library as we could and to function as efficiently as possible that a one-story option was preferred and that we could make best use of that site for the tool library and the library both with an entirely new building versus trying to keep one small section of the original building. So a lot of thought went into that, and it took many, many months to get to that place where the library board discussed that opening, I think at more than one meeting before they made that recommendation.” Ms. Corbeil continued: “The West branch project is a little bit – is not quite to that stage yet. We have held community meetings discussing the options. Again, the community – at the community meetings we talked about repainting the oldest portion of the building. As you know, it was added on to later on, and unfortunately, a large portion of the original building was destroyed in that addition at that time. And that branch is unique in that it houses the Berkeley Reads program which is our adult literacy program. And so trying to again maximize our space for both the Berkeley Reads program and Berkeley desire [sic] is to have one library so it runs more efficiently. Not to go on about it. But I think the board felt that was the best option for that community, given the space, a well functioning library, and to accommodate the needs of the literacy program. So that project is still under discussion as well.”

“S. Wengraf: Thank you very much.”

*Peter Warfield is Executive Director of Library Users Association. Email: [Libraryusers2004@yahoo.com](mailto:Libraryusers2004@yahoo.com).*

*Previous articles about Library plans by the same author have appeared in the **Berkeley Daily Planet**’s issues of May 22, June 25, and July 6, 2010.*



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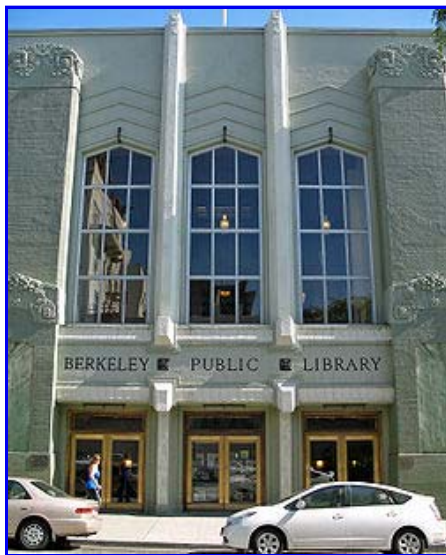
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## The Berkeley public library: a few facts

Jul 26th, 2010

by [Frances Dinkelspiel](#).



First library in Berkeley opened in 1893 with 264 books  
Rose Shattuck donated site of her old rose garden for library in 1905  
John Galen Howard designed the original building built at Kittredge and Shattuck  
Andrew Carnegie donated \$40,000 to build the structure  
In 1934, James Placheck designed building that is now called Central  
Placheck also designed North and Claremont branches  
Library now has more than 500,000 items

From July 1 2009 to May 31 2010:

2,245,307 items were checked out of the library  
1,475,201 of those were adult items  
731,013 were children's items  
30,093 were teen items

The Main Library has 40 computers  
The branches have 2 to 11 computers each  
200,000 people used computers in the library  
There were 1 million visits to electronic databases

There are 18.2 checkouts per capita in Berkeley  
 The state average is 6.2 checkouts  
 Berkeley spends \$8.72 per capita on materials  
 The state average for expenditures is \$3.23  
 The number of items in the library per capita is 5.53  
 The number of items per capita statewide is 2.12

Number of visits to the library per capita: 13.11  
 Number of visits state wide per capital: 4.5  
 North is busiest branch with 300,000 visitors a year  
 Claremont has 160,000 visitors a year

Number of places to sit at North Branch: 61  
 Number of places after renovation: 73

Holds on The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo: 121  
 Holds on The Girl who Played with Fire: 74  
 Holds on The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest: 160  
 Holds on McKay's Bees (out of print, but featured on NPR last week) 12  
 Holds on Red Hook Road by Berkeley author Ayelet Waldman: 29  
 Holds on The Help by Kathleen Socket: 85  
 Holds on The Cookbook Collector by Allegra Goodman: 76  
 Holds on The Big Short by Michael Lewis: 83  
 Holds on The First Tycoon, by T.J. Stiles, 2010 Pulitzer Prize winner: 1

Cooking and health books are the most popular genres at Claremont branch  
 Mysteries are most popular at South branch  
 Audio books are most popular at North Branch  
 The largest collection of Spanish language books is at West branch  
 Fiction is popular everywhere

Sources: *The Berkeley Public Library Foundation, Douglas Smith, deputy director of the BPL, The BPL catalogue,*

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Posted in: [Berkeley History](#), [Books](#), [Downtown](#), [Government](#), [Uncategorized](#).  
 Tagged: [Berkeley Public Library](#) · [James Placheck](#) · [John Galen Howard](#) · [Rose Shattuck](#)

← [The Berkeley Wire: 07.23.10](#)  
[Donors save BHS freshman, JV sports](#) →


## 5 Comments

1.  [Rachel A.](#) says:  
[July 26, 2010 at 9:07 am](#)

I do love me a library!

2.  [Maureen Burke](#) says:  
[July 26, 2010 at 9:25 am](#)

Holds on 'The Black Swan' at Berkeley: 58  
 Holds on 'The Black Swan' at Orinda: 0  
 Holds on 'The Black Swan' at Kensington: 1

3.  [Sanford Josef](#) says:  
[July 26, 2010 at 9:40 am](#)

Have you ever thought about posting videos to your weblog posts to keep the readers more interested? I mean I just read through the entire posting of yours and it was very fantastic but because I'm much more of a visual learner, I found that way to be alot more helpful. well, let me know what you think.



4. [Lance Knobel](#) says:  
[July 26, 2010 at 9:49 am](#)

Sanford, we're planning to do just that. I can't promise anything immediate, but we'll certainly be adding video reporting over time.



5. [Georgia](#) says:  
[July 26, 2010 at 4:07 pm](#)

Just added three books to my summer reading list, thank you.  
Red Hook Road, Ayelet Waldman  
The Help, Kathleen Stockett  
The Cookbook Collector, Allegra Goodman



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## South branch library demolition opposed

Jul 28th, 2010

by [Frances Dinkelspiel](#).



Historic photo of reading room of South Branch library

The Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association [is opposing the city's plan](#) to tear down and rebuild the South Berkeley Branch and Tool Lending Library.

BAHA [sent a letter](#) to the planning department on July 16 protesting the proposed demolition because the existing building on Russell Street, designed by architect John Hans Oswald in 1961, is an “architecturally significant building and a very fine example of Mid-Century Modern architecture.”

BAHA would like the city to either adapt the new design to save parts of the building or build a new branch library on another site.

“It’s a gem,” said Anthony Bruce, BAHA executive director. “It’s a small building and it really shows some of the design esthetics of that period—the use of wood in the interior and the indoor-outdoor aspects of it.”

The city is preparing an Environmental Impact Report on the proposed demolition, and is asking the public for comments by August 16.

Berkeley’s Landmarks Preservation Committee has already reviewed the design for a new building and has not expressed concern about the demolition. However, the committee will review the matter again after the city completes the EIR in the fall.

As part of the planning process for the branch library renovation program, library officials and the architect, Field Paoli, met numerous times with a subcommittee of the Landmarks Preservation Committee, according to Donna Corbeil, the director of the library.

The architects drew up various designs, including some that would have preserved the main reading room, which was built in 1961. (The library has been renovated twice since it was completed, once in 1974 to add a meeting room, and again in 1991 to add the tool lending library.)

But those designs didn’t work well, according to a report prepared by the Planning and Development Department. In order to reuse the main

reading room, the architects would have had to add a second story to the library, which would have required more staff. Measure FF, which is funding the renovation of the branch libraries, expressly prohibits any of the funds from being used for new programming.

In addition, the eaves jutting out of the room are only 9 feet high and working those into a new design created a cramped and claustrophobic building, said Corbeil.

“It started to feel for everyone that it wouldn’t be a respectful interpretation of the current building by taking one piece and sticking it behind a new building,” said Corbeil. “It did not come together well from a design or operational perspective.”

“It’s a concrete block building,” she said. “It was a cute design for its time, but it was really built on the cheap.”

BAHA wants to “go on record saying this is an important historic resource,” said Bruce. Oswald, who died in 1973 at the age of 49, also designed the Bancroft Center and St. John’s Presbyterian Church, according to the BAHA website.

“Berkeley has always sought out the best architects for school and civic buildings,” said Bruce.

BAHA is also opposed to plans to tear down and rebuild the library’s west branch.

If the new design is approved, the South Berkeley Branch and Tool Lending Library will be torn down in 2012 and will reopen a year later. The building will go from 5,400 square feet to 8,656 square feet. There won’t be any expansion of services, but there will be more computers and seating, the library will comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the structure will be seismically sound.

While Corbeil is in favor of building a new structure on the site, she said the city wants to respect its citizens,

“This is the community’s library,” she said. “We are here to give our opinion, but it depends on what the community wants.”





BERKELEY SOUTH BRANCH LIBRARY FIELD FACLL

Renderings of new South Berkeley Branch Library

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Posted in: [Architecture](#), [Berkeley History](#), [Government](#), [Library](#).Tagged: [Anthony Bruce](#) · [Donna Corbeil](#) · [South Berkeley Branch Library](#)[← Where in Berkeley?](#)  
[The Berkeley Wire: 7.28.10](#) →

## 12 Comments

1.  *jjohannson* says:  
[July 28, 2010 at 12:25 pm](#)

I have rose bushes that are older than this building, seismically sound, and ADA compliant.

Let's build a new one. More seating means more people at the library, an indisputable good.

2.  *Roxanne* says:  
[July 28, 2010 at 7:01 pm](#)

Watch out – it looks like BAHA is ready to strike again.  
1993 or thereabouts:

The old Thousand Oaks School...one of the most depressing, inhospitable buildings in the district, all but uninhabitable on the top floor, a seismic disaster. Plans to demolish and rebuild were underway when...

Enter BAHA which got the old hag landmarked. And guess what – after that step, there is no legal way to get a building UN-landmarked. One million smackers in EIRs and redesigns later, the old one was finally torn down anyway (which cost a fortune due to the fact that the old building was loaded with ASBESTOS. Wouldn't that have been a nice gift to the young students?) and finally the new school opened. But don't forget – BAHA cost BUSD, and therefore us taxpayers, about a million dollars extra, just because they managed to landmark that old thing.


So watch out BPL. Because BAHA doesn't care what it costs to mess up a new building process, and all those donations to our library should be used for better things than endless EIRs, in order to save an ugly and fairly crummy building.

BAHA might be good for some things but they know no bounds.


BAHA costs us plenty because in the end, they force us to needlessly spend tax dollars to fight their tunnel vision.

So whatever you do Berkeley, do NOT let them landmark that awful old library.


Mid-Century Modern indeed. Mid-Century Modern my a--.

3.  *RR* says:  
[July 28, 2010 at 7:12 pm](#)

The real question is... Where will I get tools during the while the new Tool Lending Library is being built? I love the TLL. It has saved me thousands of dollars by preventing me from buying expensive tools and allowing me to take on complicated projects myself.


4.  *Max* says:  
[July 28, 2010 at 9:35 pm](#)

A tiny, unreinforced cinderblock building, filled with children, seniors, and book browsers and only a mile away from the Hayward Fault. BAHA, what planet are you on? Do you even use libraries? Southwest Berkeley deserves a bigger, more spacious, safe, and welcoming library! Sheesh, people.


5.  *Charles Siegel* says:  
[July 29, 2010 at 10:41 am](#)

Historic preservation looked very appealing when Victorians were being preserved, but it looks much less appealing now that mid-century modern buildings have become old enough to attract the attention of preservationists.


It is a tacky, sterile, little building in a discredited architectural style. Let's get rid of it.

6.  *Phil Morton* says:  
[July 29, 2010 at 11:30 am](#)

Some people in this town seem to want nothing to be changed. For all its much vaunted progressive reputation, this is one conservative place. This building may be representative of that style, but there is not much aesthetic merit to the structure at the South Berkeley Library. Next up: let's landmark the port-a-potties at Civic Center Park as an example of "late-century modernism."


7.  *12many* says:  
[July 29, 2010 at 7:15 pm](#)

Well, it looks like they're building one of the bland, "modern" style building which we won't care about tearing down and replacing on just aesthetic grounds in the near future. Why o' why do public building have to be ugly?

8.  *Roxanne* says:  
[July 29, 2010 at 7:26 pm](#)

Next up: let's landmark the port-a-potties at Civic Center Park as an example of "late-century modernism."

Well, some of them have been there long enough.

9.  *Roxanne* says:  
[July 29, 2010 at 7:33 pm](#)


"BAHA is also opposed to plans to tear down and rebuild the library's west branch." .  
I just noticed this sentence. You have got to be kidding. It is even uglier and tackier than the south branch.

10.  *carole* says:  
[July 30, 2010 at 11:07 am](#)


I've lived and worked in Berkeley for 30 years, first as a librarian at the Central branch, and then as a webmaster of lii.org and instructor for the California State Library. I'm now retired and have time to pay a bit more attention to civic life.

I am a member of BAHA and strongly disagree with the stance taken on its behalf toward the construction plans for South and West branches. I like architecture and support a lot of what BAHA has done in the past (not all of it by a long shot) but this time they've taken a wrong tack. How much more is it going to cost to do the 2 buildings because of their fight? I want the money I voted to tax myself for to go to the library, not specious attacks on the planning process. Information on the various meetings necessary has been posted. Every time I go to the library's website or into the buildings — there is info there on this very public planning process.

As far as South's architectural heritage goes, my favorite description came from a 19-year-old born and raised in Berkeley, "South branch — that's the one that looks like someone dumped a bunch of boxes and called it a library. Ugly."

11.  *Library Patron* says:  
[July 30, 2010 at 1:55 pm](#)

I agree with Carol. In this particular instance, those few in the BAHA membership are going in the wrong direction. I doubt that most of the BAHA membership agree with this position, as it relates to South and West. We, and they, need to move on, to let go, and allow the new libraries to be built. Can those few in BAHA who are organizing this backwards move take the time to question their ethics and wisdom and to expand their vision into the next generation?

12.  *Jerry* says:  
[August 3, 2010 at 11:41 am](#)

It's about time that everyone in Berkeley have access to a state of the art library. The money from measure FF will provide such facilities to all the neighborhood branches. The current South Branch is incredibly overcrowded, unsafe, unsightly, and inefficient. The new branch will be a welcome addition to the community as regards both usefulness and aesthetics. BAHA should get their priorities straight. The current building is an ugly mess which will not be missed.





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Robert Ashley in his bedroom studio.

Joseph Schell

**CULTURE**  
**ROBERT ASHLEY'S LIFE WELL WASTED**

The Berkeley podcaster gives video gamers the public radio treatment.

By Neal Soldofsky

**A** *Life Well Wasted*, by Berkeley podcaster Robert Ashley, is hardly the only internet radio show devoted to video games. But it must be the only one regularly compared by fans to **Public Radio International's** beloved radio program *This American Life*. Its more-than-polished production values invite the association. The true clincher is *A Life Well Wasted's* focus not on video games per se, but on the quirks, fascinations, and daily lives of the people who play them.

In one episode, we visit an East Bay game developer with a personal gaming museum hidden in his basement. He leads us through a small hole in the floor, down a precarious ladder, and into a subterranean room filled with joysticks hanging from the walls, a host of vintage arcade machines ready to play, and shelves full of games from countless platforms — plenty of which were never actually released. Later, he explains how he learned to program his own games over the course of a few trips to K-Mart.

In another, we hear from a woman who designs computer chips and once made a purse that's also a portable **Nintendo Entertainment System**, the eight-bit home-gaming console that debuted in the United States in 1985. (Living up to the podcast's promise of unique characters, she also revealed some non-gaming endeavors such as building her own race car and joining the roller derby with the intention of getting into fights.)

But Robert Ashley does more than document gamers and gaming culture. He also asks big

questions. In an episode titled "Why Game?" Ashley attempts to figure out why people are willing to invest so much time and money in games, and what exactly they get from their investment. Ashley begins simply by asking people the title question while wandering the halls at a game developers' conference. At first, the answers are unsatisfying: "Because it's fun," responds more than one person. "It's something to do in your spare time," another says.

In addition to the more shallow answers, we get a big helping of depressing ones: "It helps me to forget about my life ... my horrible life," answers one man. A score of others say they play games in order to "escape reality."

Still others strike the balance between pain and pleasure. Some game developers tell Ashley that video game violence can be therapeutic. That video games immerse you in other worlds. That they allow you to do things you otherwise can't, like save the planet, or get rich. And, strangely enough, they let you feel like you've actually accomplished something.

That last point strikes a chord with Ashley. "That's the secret sauce," Ashley said in an online interview. "One of the reasons I think gaming is so popular with my generation and the people younger than me is that we were all brought up with this ideal that we would go to college and become super successful. Obviously, everyone isn't going to live up to that ideal. You come home from your shitty job or take a break from your complicated relationship problems, and you vacation in a world with really achievable goals.

"You always know what you need to do in a game," Ashley continued. "And when you do it, the game goes out of its way to pat you on the back: 'Hurray for you!' 'Gold star!' Striving for such immaterial recognition may strike some as unfortunate, but Ashley feels otherwise.

"I don't think it's an unhealthy escapism," he said. "Real accomplishment is pretty elusive. Even when I do get something done, I don't feel a lot of catharsis. Certainly not like when I hear that chiming sound in *Zelda* that tells you when you've solved a puzzle. That is knowable progress." Ashley produces the entire show by himself, painstakingly stringing together interviews, his

own commentary, and electronic music made by his band, **I Come to Shanghai**. He does all this in his bedroom studio. "Probably spent twenty hours on that first episode," he said. "The last two have [taken] around 120 hours. I started inflating my expectations. I wanted to have original music for each episode. I wanted to have lots of big audio set pieces, musical moments in the story. I'm having a little arms race with myself."

That arms race often results in a strange hybrid between documentary and music, as well as a long wait between episodes. *A Life Well Wasted* has been around since January 2009, and in that time Ashley has released a mere six episodes. "I do wish I could get them out more frequently," he said. "If I could do it once a month, I think it would take off. People like regularity." Fortunately, plenty of the podcast's followers seem to be willing to settle for something a little more sporadic. Episode five, titled "Help," has been downloaded more than 50,000 times.

"New episodes are slow to come out," acknowledged **Keith McNally**, one of Ashley's regular listeners and a fellow podcaster, "but each one seems like something worth hanging on to, and worth listening to multiple times."

Ashley got his start as a freelance writer for video game magazines like **Electronic Gaming Monthly** and **Computer Gaming World**. "I was flying all over the world writing stories for the magazines," he said. "It was a lot of fun. Nothing makes you feel successful like international air travel. I went to the Ukraine, Finland, China twice, Poland, lots of places." Ashley's charge was to visit game studios and write stories about the games they were working on — but only games, not people. "I would meet all of these interesting people, but the magazines only cared about the games. They wanted boring nerdy details. Like, what kind of guns can you shoot?" Ashley's frustration with this process eventually led to the birth of *A Life Well Wasted*. The show is available for free online. Ashley never asks for donations, but he does sell posters. **Ollly Moss**, a graphic designer based in Los Angeles, designs a poster for each episode. A friend of Ashley's in Austin then screen-prints runs of 200, and Ashley hand-numbers them, then sells them, usually for \$25 a piece. "Then I spend a week stuffing tubes and staring at a spread sheet," he said. "It would be a pretty good living if I could get it more regularly. It's enough to support me and pay for some traveling for interviews." Granted, there are a few things he doesn't have to go far to see. Alameda's **Lucky Ju Ju Pinball**, for example, was featured in the second episode. "My bandmate Sam was dating some girl, and she took him to Ju Ju," Ashley recalled. "He came back and told me, 'Man, there's this pinball place in Alameda where you can play all the pinball you want for ten bucks.'" Ashley says it's still one of his favorite Friday-night outings.

While Ashley may be said to occasionally exploit the eccentricities of his subjects, he's not afraid to turn the spotlight back on himself. "I was a total freak as a kid, tons of social problems," he said. "Some of my best memories are of laying down in front of the TV, in the air conditioning on a really hot day, playing these simple old games. When you're a kid, you have no control over what happens to you. The universe is cruel and arbitrary. Games, for me, were really empowering."

To share this story, type: [ebx.hy.pr/lifewellwasted](http://ebx.hy.pr/lifewellwasted)  
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## Planning Your West Branch Berkeley Library Project

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inspiration and motivation for the camp's aspiring young musicians. Launched last year by Seeling and acclaimed tenor saxophonist Jean Fineberg to provide female players a showcase for their skills, and a networking forum akin to the one available to many male players, the camp is a natural outgrowth of the band. As for the band, Seeling founded the women-only organization in 1998 with her business partner, Barbara Price, who owns Oakland's beautifully refurbished Montclair Women's Art Club, the group's home base. All that aside, the Montclair Women's Big Band's



Bad-ass band.

mission is to swing, and the 16-piece combo delivers a brassy, blues-drenched wallop, adding a strong feel for Latin grooves to a book redolent of Count Basie and Thad Jones.

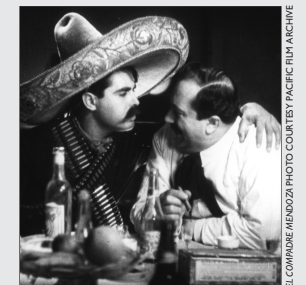
Fineberg, who serves as the band's assistant director, leads the talent-laden saxophone section. A New York native, Fineberg is a prolific studio player; she's contributed to more than 50 albums to date, including sessions by Laura Nyro, Patti LaBelle, and David Bowie's hit 1975 album, *Young Americans*. On the jazz front, she's performed with trumpet legends Clark Terry and Dizzy Gillespie. Joining the band as special guest is the supremely suave Denise Perrier, a commanding jazz and blues vocalist whose keen insight enlivens even the most familiar lyric.

Montclair Women's Big Band, Friday, Aug. 13, 7 and 9pm, Jazzschool; 2087 Addison St., Berkeley, \$15; (510) 845-5373 or [jazzschool.com](http://jazzschool.com). —Andrew Gilbert

### FILM

#### Birth of a nation

In the 1930s, with the repercussions of the Mexican Revolution still reverberating through his country, pioneering director Fernando de Fuentes embarked on a profound trilogy of films set during the upheaval of 1910. Instead of the



Doublecrossing Compadre.

romanticized epics of idealism and heroism one might expect, de Fuentes's dramas eschewed broad strokes in favor of intimately human sagas of corruption and compromise. The Pacific Film Archive unearths these rarely screened works, plus a pair of more recent titles, in the eye-opening series, "Viva la Revolución: Celebrating the Hundredth Anniversary of Mexico's Revolution."

De Fuentes's opening salvo,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



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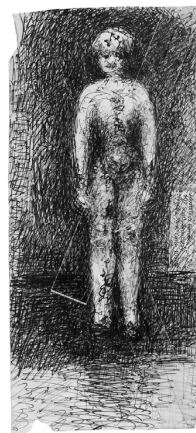
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## Business Report **The Chronicle with Bloomberg**

### Libraries branch out into job-hunting centers

Carolyn Said, Chronicle Staff Writer  
Sunday, August 1, 2010

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Michael Macor / The Chronicle  
Keith Lancaster uses a computer at the Livermore library to search for jobs.

[Public libraries](#) around the Bay Area and the country have emerged as vital resource centers for the growing hordes of job hunters. With free [Internet](#) access, tons of information online and in print, knowledgeable staffs and convenient locations, public libraries are attracting unemployed folks like never before.

[Libraries](#) have risen to the challenge, holding classes on resume writing and

#### IMAGES



[View All Images \(4\)](#)

job interviewing, subscribing to specialized job databases, offering online prep courses for civil service and other exams, amassing materials on starting businesses, creating Web sites on career development and even offering free career counseling. Recently, the nation's libraries agreed to collaborate with the [U.S. Department of Labor](#) to more effectively help job seekers.

Last year, 30 million people reported turning to their public library for help in their job quest, 6.9 million did some job-related training at library computers and 3.7 million found work using a library computer.

"There's a hunger out there for information on job hunting," said Luis Herrera, city librarian of [San Francisco](#). The library

08.09.10

attracts capacity crowds to its class on how to find a job online, and there is huge demand for its classes covering basic computer skills - something many displaced workers lack.

Around the Bay Area, Livermore's spacious library opened an entire job center, Free2Succeed, staffed by a professional career adviser. San Mateo's main branch has marshaled volunteers with experience in human resources who meet one-on-one with jobless patrons. The new Walnut Creek library has an entire room devoted to job hunting. The Fremont Main Library holds a course that delves into the breadth of resources available to job hunters.

### **Livermore a leader**

The Livermore Public Library has been in the vanguard of the trend.

A couple of years ago, said Leila Swisher, supervising librarian, the staff noticed a big increase in patron requests for job-hunting help.

"Many of these patrons were unfamiliar with the latest trends in seeking employment, particularly in an electronic environment," she said. "It was apparent that the library could benefit from having expertise on staff in the area of career advising."

The library received grant funds to create Free2Succeed, with an adviser who offers free 90-minute private counseling sessions and runs classes on job-hunting.

Megan Pittsley ran Free2Succeed from its fall 2008 opening until recently and now works as a career adviser while also consulting with other libraries on how to create job centers.

"Once word got out, I had people coming up from Modesto to see me," she said.

The San Mateo Public Library also offers free one-on-one career counseling.

"Like libraries across the country, during this difficult period we're seeing more members of the community who are displaced and laid off looking for resources at the library to help with their job hunt," said Ben Ocon, city librarian. "We began to see this as an important area to match our resources with those looking for help."

The library turned to its cadre of volunteers and found 19 with backgrounds in human resources. In February, they started offering individual job counseling at the main branch. So far, about 717 community members have met with the volunteers.

"They provide a lot of morale-building support; sometimes it helps just to talk to someone who understands what it is to be looking for work," Ocon said.

As the Fremont Main Library was inundated with job seekers, Gertrude Rooshan, business specialist, developed an eight-week course to provide more in-depth help than basic resume-writing courses.

It covers such topics as researching salary ranges and finding "hidden jobs" - those filled before they're advertised.

"Craigslist is important, but it's not the best way to find a job," she said. "I realized we could do better by showing people all the other resources that are available."

Librarians say that assisting job hunters is a natural extension of their role as information navigators.

"Libraries are about helping people find the resources they need to be successful," said Stacey Aldrich, state librarian of [California](#). "Workforce development at libraries has been accelerating over the last two years and has skyrocketed this year."

When the state library surveyed California's eight regional library cooperative systems earlier this year, all asked for more access to online job resources, Aldrich said.

### **Support for community**

"The most unanimous thing every region said was that they wanted to do something with jobs to support their communities," she said.

In response, the state library is awarding grants for libraries to subscribe to online services that offer live interactive help with resumes and job interviews and to purchase more computers for job hunters' use.

Increasingly libraries are finding community partners to help meet job hunters' needs, Aldrich said. Often that may mean working with One-Stop Career Centers.

The Dublin library, for instance, has teamed up with a One-Stop center to offer classes and individual appointments at the library, said Peggy Watson, head of branches for the Alameda County Library system.

At the national level, collaboration between libraries and the government job-hunting system was recently formalized.

"As the nation has struggled through the recent economic downturn, libraries were inundated with people seeking help with employment-related issues," said Mary Chute, deputy director for libraries at the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

The institute, a grant-making federal agency, in June joined the Department of Labor to encourage the workforce investment system and the country's libraries to collaborate to help job seekers. It has awarded grants to assess libraries' needs, provide nationwide workforce development training for librarians and develop a job-hunting curriculum that libraries can adapt to their communities.

Many displaced workers may not find another traditional job but instead will create their own by starting a small business. There too, libraries can be key, Chute said.

"Lots of times we find that the local library serves as the office for people doing startup business work," she said, citing developing business plans, studying applicable laws, researching competitors, learning the nuts and bolts of setting up payroll and getting insurance, as examples of information available at the library.

### **Entrepreneurial research**

Both the LoJack car-theft prevention device and Duck Boat tours were started by entrepreneurs who did all their initial research at the public library, she said.

Libraries all point to the unfortunate timing of having their budgets slashed just as demand for their services is surging, but say they will continue to adapt to best serve patrons.

"I don't think retooling yourself will ever go out of style," Chute said. "In the spirit of 21st century skills, I think libraries will be prepared not only to reinvent library services in the most responsible way but to help patrons themselves reinvent what they have to offer."

### **More people using library computers**

In belt-tightening times, fewer people have a computer and Internet access at home. Sometimes, the library is the only way to go online for free.

- More than 77 million people over age 14 used a library computer last year.
- 30 million people used library computers to help address career and employment needs.
- Among these users, 76 percent searched for jobs online.
- Among job seekers, 68 percent went on to apply for a job or submit a resume.
- 23 percent used library computers to receive job-related training.
- 3.7 million people reported finding work using a library computer.
- 88 percent of public libraries provide access to job databases and other job opportunity resources.
- 67 percent of libraries report that staff members helped patrons complete online job applications last year.
- Nearly 90 percent of public libraries offer formal or informal technology training to library patrons.
- 67 percent of libraries report they are the only provider of free public access to computers and the Internet in their communities.

Sources: Institute of Museum and Library Sciences, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, American Library Association

*E-mail Carolyn Said at [csaid@sfgate.com](mailto:csaid@sfgate.com).*

*This article appeared on page **D - 1** of the San Francisco Chronicle*

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**elephantinrm** 6:55 AM on August 1, 2010

At least their still trying. I love this country when people behave like this. Good luck to all of you that are looking for work.

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**chezsheep** 9:08 AM on August 1, 2010

Public libraries are a hallmark of civil society. They provide the resources to keep those pushed to the margins linked into current culture. It hurts me that local libraries have had to cut their hours, as they serve such a broad purpose.

[REPLY](#) [\(32\)](#) [\(1\)](#) POPULARITY: 31

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**bohemiansf** 5:30 AM on August 1, 2010

Ha. "A place to heck out books -- and jobs." I guess they don't have "spell heck" at the Chron. Wake up! I know it's early, but sheesh.

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## Proposed Renovations to Public Library Branches Face Criticism



ANNA VIGNET/STA

The South Branch of the city's public library system may be demolished and rebuilt as part of a contentious plan some say is inconsistent with Measure FF, which granted bonds for renovation.

By SAMANTHA STRIMLING  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER  
Monday, August 2, 2010  
Category: News > City

[Photos »](#)

Planned renovations to four branches of

the Berkeley Public Library system have been met with opposition from community members who say the plans - ranging from minor retrofits to outright demolition and replacement - would destroy the buildings' historical value and misuse voter-approved bond money.

Comments (3)

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Four of the city's libraries are scheduled to undergo renovations in the coming months, using \$26 million granted by Measure FF in 2008.

Renovations to the Claremont and North Branches to make them less cluttered, more energy-efficient and ADA-accessible were approved Thursday by the Zoning Adjustments Board. Public input and Environmental Impact Reports are necessary before the more contentious plans to demolish and rebuild the South and West Branches can be approved. Those will be completed within the next nine months, according to Steven Buckley, secretary for the board.

Those opposed to the plans said the demolitions do not fit into the scope of Measure FF, which granted municipal bonds to be used only for renovation, construction, seismic and disabled-access improvements and expansion of program areas.

"Some of us were under the impression that the FF bond money was going toward renovation and restoration and were surprised that the money was going towards demolition," said Anthony Bruce, executive director of the Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association.

Echoing this sentiment, Peter Warfield, executive director of the Library Users Association, said the redirection of funds without consulting voters was a "betrayal of the public."

"We don't necessarily need to get rid of anything," he said. "It's like saying, 'You are a nice-looking person. What can we get rid of?'"

However, Senior Planner Aaron Sage said preserving the building is not economically or aesthetically productive.

"When you look how much it costs to bring it up to code, about the same amount of money is spent (as rebuilding and you get a building that is not as attractive and not as functional," he said. "And you have to add bracing that alters the historic appearance."

He added that the new buildings will come with added amenities such as solar thermal panels and photo voltaics, which will help West Branch use zero net energy.

The West Branch is on the Landmarks Preservation Commission's Structures of Merit list, meaning it is considered less important to protect than a landmark, but is still deserving of a public hearing, Bruce said.

While the South Branch has not earned this distinction, some have raised the question of whether it should have the distinction due to its architectural background, leading the Zoning Adjustments Board to believe it would be "prudent" to conduct the Environmental Impact Review before demolishing, Buckley said.

Though the West Branch was designed in the 1920s, it was "remodeled in an unfortunate way" in the 1970s, Bruce said. The city showed interest in restoring the exterior to resemble the original, causing the Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association to view the demolition as "a complete about-face," Bruce said.

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- Local Antique Bookstore Could Close - *Mon, May 3, 2010*
- City's Public Library Branches Face Renovations - *Wed, Feb 17, 2010*
- Meetings to Discuss Library Renovations Begin Thursday - *Tue, Sep 15, 2009*



Warfield said recent renovations do not make books available, which he said should be the top priority.

"They are getting rid of reference desks and combining them with circulation desks," he said. "They are expanding floor space and decreasing shelf space. It is a degradation and reduction of library service to the public. It is a de-emphasis of books and a lack of respect for the terrific assets that (the library) actually (has)."

Despite the complaints, Sage and Buckley said they believe many people are in favor of the project.

"The way things generally work is we hear mainly from people who are in opposition," Sage said. "There are people out there who if you asked them would say, 'Yeah, I think that's a good project,' but they tend not to get that involved."

Tags: [MEASURE FF](#), [BERKELEY ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE ASSOCIATION](#), [BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY](#)

Contact Samantha Strimling at [sstrimling@dailycal.org](mailto:sstrimling@dailycal.org).

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## Comments (3) »

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**Echo 3 Items**

[Admin](#)



**palaeologos**

Since when are the South and West branches worthy of architectural preservation? Ugly, ugly, ugly.  
Tuesday, August 03, 2010, 9:02:26 PM – Like – Reply



**Guest**

blow it up and make a modern one. The illegals will be flooding into the state so we need to make invasion room for them. Ask the chancellor who is for an invasion and overthrow of America, because he is a racist and a hater. Take the school funds and rebuild the library, and ask the Livermore nucleare weapons department to threaten washington D.C. to deliever mafia funds for the project. I mean it is not like Cal is not fully equipt to criminality. It is a criminal organization.  
Monday, August 02, 2010, 11:11:35 AM – Like – Reply



**Guest**

inarticulate clownery  
Tuesday, August 03, 2010, 1:05:42 AM – Like – Reply

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## Reader Commentaries

### Branch Library Renovations

*By Christopher Adams*

*Tuesday August 03, 2010*



As the editor of the Planet has pointed out on several occasions, the “greenest” building project is a renovation, not a replacement. This is exactly what will happen with two of Berkeley’s four branch libraries with the money from Measure FF. But two of the branches must be replaced. Here is why:

The South Branch, at Martin Luther King Way and Russell Street, houses both a neighborhood branch and the Tool Lending Library. Both are overcrowded. Most of the meeting room has been taken over for staff functions; computer stations and shelves crowd the once handsome reading room and make wheelchair maneuvers almost impossible. Before the passage of Measure FF the Board of Library Trustees considered moving the regular branch facilities to leased space in the Ed Roberts Center, under construction at the Ashby BART station, but there was neighborhood opposition to the move and a sense among many residents that the neighborhood deserved a free-standing building like the other branch libraries. Thus the decision was made to stay in the same location, which is the smallest parcel of land of any of the branches yet contains, in essence, two libraries, the regular neighborhood library and the tool lending library.

The library staff held four community meetings at the South Branch, where the architects worked through alternative designs for this small and crowded site, and in addition gave four public presentations before the library trustees. The architects carefully studied ways to retain some parts of the existing building. Unfortunately the concrete block structure was discovered to have significant seismic problems. Because the low wood plank roof has no inner ceiling and the concrete floor contains heating pipes there is no space for inserting modern wiring for computers. Although the Tool Lending library is used by citizens from all parts of the city, the original grant that created it was directed to South Berkeley, and it can only be expanded with Measure FF funds if it stays with the branch. It is now housed in crowded trailer-like buildings. Because some of the tools available for lending are large the city planning department insists, quite correctly, that there must be off-street parking spaces for pick-up and drop-off on this busy street. Ultimately the architects concluded that retaining a piece of the old building would be an insignificant gesture and would restrict developing a plan that could accommodate all the needs of this branch. Their design will be a handsome new facility that will match in symbolism the North Branch at the other end of Martin Luther King Way.

In 2003 the library developed a conceptual plan for the West Branch on University Avenue near San Pablo. This plan would have removed the ugly 1970s façade and moved and restored the original building while also providing new and expanded facilities for regular library users and for this branch's special program, Berkeley Reads, a program for adult literacy which is one of the most wonderful (there is no other adjective) things happening in Berkeley. The 2003 conceptual plan was estimated to cost \$14 million. The library applied for a State grant for much of this cost and came close to receiving one, but now State money has dried up. Based on construction cost indexes the \$14 million estimate in 2003 would now be \$19 million, more than 70% of the amount provided by Measure FF for all four branches. As with the South Branch the architects studied the possibility of a second story as a means of preserving part of the existing structure, but the construction costs for fire stairs and an elevator and the additional operational costs for staff on two floors went well above budget. In order to accommodate the neighborhood library needs and Berkeley Reads and still keep within the budget, the architects concluded that the original building must be replaced. The design will be as green as possible, with the intent that it will be a Net Zero Energy building—meaning that it will use solar energy and natural lighting and ventilation to achieve no energy costs over a 12 month period.

South Berkeley and West Berkeley deserve the finest branch libraries we can get with the money available from Measure FF. The library administration and the Board of Library Trustees have done the best job possible to assure this happens.

*The writer is former president of both the Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association and the Berkeley Public Library Foundation. The views expressed here are exclusively his own.*

# ARTS&CULTURE



Doug Boehm

## CULTURE SPY

### SKIN FLICKS AND SCREEN FLIPS

The ChatRoulette Show brings a new Internet phenomenon to the stage.

By Rachel Swan

There's a reason the word "Chatroulette" has become *outré*. Think: dicks. There are, in fact, *seads* of dicks on the nine-month-old Internet phenomenon — many more than founder **Andy Ternovskiy** intended. Supposedly, the seventeen-year-old Russian Internet mogul is in the process of creating an algorithm to identify and weed out all the penises. But for now, he's got a dirty site on his hands.

"When I first heard about it in February or March ... I thought it emblemized everything that's wrong with the world today," said **Jonathan Bender**, a local theater director who recently seized upon the site as a source of inspiration. "We're so inter-connected, and yet we're so disconnected and lonely that people are feeling the need to masturbate on camera for other people."

Masturbation is an indispensable element of Bender's **ChatRoulette Show**, which he produced under the auspice of his small acting company, **Illuminated Theater**. It launched June 17 at the **Make-Out Room** in San Francisco, and now happens twice a month in various Bay Area locations. Structured as a talent showcase, the show allows

local entertainers to engage with two audiences simultaneously — one on Chatroulette, via web cam, the other live. Bender projects the Chatroulette session on a big screen, so it becomes the centerpiece of each performance.

For those unfamiliar with the network, it's fairly straightforward: You attach a web cam to your computer, log onto Chatroulette.com, and have a random conversation with whoever pops up — or flip to see who awaits on the next screen. Anyone in the world can use it. Most conversations are fleeting, most users noncommittal, since you can ditch the current chat at any point and initiate a new one. A lot of people use it for exhibitionism.

A lot. So many, that Bender had to make them a part of the show. He created several hand-written signs with the words "Dick!" "Cock!" and "Schlong!" and has a female assistant hold them up every time one appeared on the screen. Audience members shrieked. Some turned it into a drinking game.

The July 22 rendition featured several returning guests, including celloist the **Unwoman**, Vegas-style magician **Ryan Miller**, haiku artist **John Staedler**, character impersonator the **Ukaldy**, and gut-bucket string band **Mad Noise**. All were competing for cash prizes (\$75 for first place, \$25 for second place), awarded to the act that not only could rock a stage at Make-Out Room, but also find favor with the notoriously fickle crowd on Chatroulette. The show went three rounds: five minutes, three minutes, one and a half minutes, respectively. Every so often Bender's browser would crash, and the whole screen would go black. Heckling was inevitable.

Undoubtedly, the night's most successful performer was **Unwoman**. Known for busking in BART stations and side-manning with the band **Strippmall Architecture**, she took the stage in Victorian garb: lacy blouse, black-widow skirt, tiny top hat affixed to the side of her head. She sang Etta James' "At Last" in a lustrous vibrato.

A guy appeared on the Chatroulette screen. Grainy. Square glasses. Maybe mid-twenties. He leaned forward to type an instant message. "Nice," he wrote. "Let me see you."

Unwoman adjusted herself before the computer screen.

"Wowwww wow wwwwool!" the Chatroulette guy exclaimed. He lit a cigarette. "Special voice," he typed. The screen went black.

Such is the challenge of simulcasting, said Bender. "This is a completely new form for performers," he explained. "They're performing for a live audience that's watching, as well as for people who don't realize they're part of a show. They don't realize that when they hit 'next,' they're dissing a performer."

Bender heard about Chatroulette the way

most adults do — by reading a news article about the boy wonder Ternovskiy. He said he's dabbled in the site out of curiosity but never taken a prurient interest in its content. "I'm over the hill being in my thirties," he admitted. "Chatroulette is mainly for people in their teens and twenties. ... It's not something I do at this point." Nonetheless, he got seduced by the brute competitiveness and accelerated nature of the medium. In real life, people have to use social niceties and gracefully duck out of conversations. But if you bore someone on Chatroulette, he can disappear in a dime.

"I became fascinated by how long can you keep someone's attention before they go away. I realized it's easier with two people. I realized it's easier if I have a woman with me."

With those things taken in consideration, **Unwoman** had a clear advantage over the other contestants at the Chatroulette Show. She's young, feminine, and pretty, with piercing eyes and sausage-curl hair. She was one of two women on the lineup, and unlike the **Ukaldy**, she chose not to hide under ridiculous wigs and big glasses. But even **Unwoman** couldn't overcome the provocations of an Internet audience.

She began her second set in the company of a seemingly harmless young man. He smiled. **Unwoman** grinned back. Bender's assistant, **Hope Mirilis**, flashed a sign at the bottom of the screen. "Is your audio on?" it asked. The young man smiled again. "Hi," he typed. Then he flipped past. The audience hissed. A group of girls skidded by, flashing their cleavage and heaving a billboard for "Girls Gone Wild." Then came a bearded guy. Then three pretty girls. Then two dicks. Then the screen went black. During the third round, a pretty teenager took one look at **Unwoman**, and gave all of us the finger.

All those improprieties are just the nature of the beast, said Bender. Just like the browser that keeps crashing. But every once in a while, Chatroulette finds a way to promote brotherly love. During the first Chatroulette Show, for instance, Bender's browser landed on a pair of teenagers in Tennessee, who got a kick out of seeing the live audience. Dustin and Jonathan stared raply through a whole spoken-word set, and applauded the performer. "They were hysterical," said Bender, who eventually flipped to the next screen himself. "There was a point when we said good-bye, and moved on," he said. "Then they popped back up." Now, he says, they're all **Facebook** friends.

In the twenty years that he's been involved in theater, Bender has tried a variety of experimental, concept-driven projects. But the Chatroulette Show might be his most novel idea to date. For the next show — slated for August 27 at the Make-Out Room — he's billing a burlesque dancer, more musicians, and more improv comedians. He wants less blank screen time. He wouldn't mind fewer penises, though such things can't really be helped in a site build around voyeurism.

Then again, Bender is planning a Chatroulette show edition in the Castro. He thinks the dicks might be a hit over there.

To share this story, type: [ebx.hy.pr/chatroulette](http://ebx.hy.pr/chatroulette)

Rachel Swan@EastBayExpress.com

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## Landmarks Commission Recognizes Dwight Way Victorian

By Steven Finacom  
Monday August 09, 2010

...Comments were also made by individual Commissioners about subcommittee meetings they had attended. LPC subcommittees generally focus on a single landmark building or project.

Three Commissioners had participated in a subcommittee discussion of changes to the North Branch Berkeley Public Library. In their comments they alternated praise for some of the redesign and renovation plans with concerns about certain other elements.

They said they had suggested that the original light fixture in the library lobby not be encircled by a new modern hanging fixture, asked that a proposed exterior garbage storage area be moved under the building and away from the large chimney on the façade, opposed making the main entrance door asymmetrical on the façade, and asked that any newly created functional artwork be incorporated in the new addition to the building, rather than attached to the older structure.

Commissioner Wagley said that her understanding was that the City had mistakenly not included the City's requirement that 1.5 % of project budget be spent on public art in the ballot wording for the bond issue that funded the branch library renovations.

As a result the City is now rushing to incorporate some public art into the North Branch Library, but also requiring that the art be functional.

Subcommittee Commissioners said they were skeptical of a suggestion that an ornamental railing on front of the old building be created, and suggested instead that a trellis or other features on the rear addition be targeted for the art funding.

Commissioners Parsons and Olson reported their subcommittee had a positive impact working with a contractor at the landmark Grace North Church.

"We've taken some builders who were not preservationist by inclination and made them more sensitive to what's there", Olson said. The subcommittee had met with the contractors to discuss proposed window replacements, repairs to deteriorated exterior beams, and other alternations.

Commissioner Robert Johnson requested that staff look into asking the owners of the landmark Tupper & Reed building on Shattuck Avenue to trim back an overgrowth of ivy on the ornate façade.

In Commission member comments, Commissioner Olson expressed concern that the Cheese Board on Shattuck Avenue had begun an extensive façade renovation without any City staff reviewing that project sending any information to the LPC. The Cheese Board itself is not in a landmark building, but the structure immediately adjacent to the north is a landmark.

Commission Secretary Jay Claiborne reported that the proposed demolition of the historic West Branch Library is undergoing environmental review.

...







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## Letters to the Editor

*Tuesday August 10, 2010*



### Libraries and the Proposed Changes

There have been several commentaries raising questions about changes to the branch libraries. So far the questions posed by Peter Warfield and BAHA are unanswered. There is a fundamental problem in reducing book space for computer space. Unless we change the definition of libraries, they exist for making books available to would-be readers. If they are going to also be computer centers, then the public needs to get into this conversation and consider where the funding for that addition will come from. Books and computers can enhance the nature of each "technology", but not if one has to be diminished. My next question is, if two library branches really have to be demolished where does the money come from to do that? Not Library Bond measure FF.

*Elise White*



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**ECO WATCH**

**LEEVE "REPAIR" THREATENS FISH**

Federal plans to cut down trees and remove shrubs from levees will remove vital shade needed for fish habitat.

By Robert Gammon

California's salmon and steelhead populations are on the brink of collapse. And a new federal policy formulated in the wake of Hurricane Katrina could finally send the fragile fisheries into the abyss.

Beginning next month, the **US Army Corps of Engineers** will start enforcing new regulations requiring that trees be cut down and vegetation removed from levees on the nation's waterways. The rules are a part of a national effort to upgrade levees and prevent disastrous floods. The corps came under heavy criticism when poorly maintained levees broke in New Orleans in August 2005.

But environmentalists say that trees and shrubs provide critical habitat for threatened and endangered species. Trees along the **Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta**, for example, provide much-needed shade that keep waterways cool for salmon and steelhead. "It's a one-size-fits-all attempt by the corps to respond to Hurricane Katrina, but it's not necessarily based on what is needed," said **Jeff Miller**, the **Center for Biological Diversity**.

Last week, the center notified the corps that it plans to file suit to stop the new regulations from going forward. The center also argues that the corps has ignored recent studies showing that deep-rooted trees and shrubs can strengthen levees — not harm them. In a letter earlier this year to the corps, the **California Central Valley Flood Control Association**, which represents seventy levee operators, made the same point. "In addition to their obvious ecological and species benefits," the group wrote, "recent slope stabilization studies indicate that vegetation can also provide structural integrity to the core of the levee, and help stabilize the earthen material to adverse conditions."

Environmentalists say the corps has turned federal environmental laws on their head. Typically, governmental agencies must conduct thorough reviews before implementing new policies that might harm the environment. But with its new regulations, the corps is requiring levee operators to conduct a review before they can receive a "variance" from having to implement them. Without a variance, levee operators could be fined or lose precious federal dollars. Corps officials in Sacramento did not return phone calls seeking comment for this story.

The Center for Biological Diversity contends that the September 30 deadline is not enough time to conduct environmental studies on the effects of clear-cutting levees. The center also contends the corps should have consulted first with **US Fish and Wildlife Service** and the **National Marine Fisheries Service** before adopting the new rules.

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## Demolition of Berkeley branch libraries fought

Carolyn Jones, Chronicle Staff Writer

Thursday, August 12, 2010



Berkeley may be filled with passionate readers, but the recent clamor for an upgrade of the city's libraries has been greeted, in some quarters, with an angry "shhhhhh."

Architectural preservationists and a library users' group are fighting plans to renovate or rebuild the city's four branch libraries, an undertaking made possible by a \$26 million bond voters passed in 2008.

Preservationists say the South and West branches, which the city hopes to demolish and replace with new buildings, should stay intact because they are historically significant. The library users' group says the plans "dumb down" the library because the renovations will leave less shelf space for books and more space for magazines, community meetings and offices.

"We voted for libraries to be renovated, rehabilitated and restored. We did not vote to demolish them," said Daniella Thompson of the Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association. "The South branch is a beautiful building that has suffered over the years. But it should not be torn down."

Library officials are worried that any delays, in part resulting from public outcry, will force them to scale back the projects to stay within budget.

"Any delays will affect the budget," said library Director Donna Corbeil. "Our mandate from the voters is to make these buildings safe, and we have to move these projects forward with the budget we have."

All four of the branch libraries violate, to some degree, seismic and disability codes. Money raised through Measure FF was intended to make the libraries safe and accessible to disabled people, on par with the \$33 million in upgrades the main library underwent in 2002.

But renovating the South and West libraries turned out to be so expensive and impractical that library officials decided to raze the buildings and start from scratch, Corbeil said.

City Councilman Max Anderson, who represents South Berkeley, was irate that preservationists might hold up the library project. The South branch is so crowded it has become obsolete, he said.

"The people voted for these libraries to be fixed up - they didn't vote to put restrictions on what can and can't be done with them," he said. "A handful of self-appointed preservationists are not going to stop the momentum of this project."

But the library should have looked harder for a solution, Thompson said.

The South branch, at Martin Luther King Jr. Way and Russell Street, is a prime example of mid-century modern architecture and won numerous awards when it opened in 1961, Thompson said. Instead of razing it, the city should expand it or move the branch to another location and find a new use for the building, she said. She disputed the library's claim that expansion was too expensive and impractical.

The proposed new library buildings are also flawed, said Peter Warfield, the director of the Library Users Association, which represents a few hundred library card holders. The association is opposing the plans because of their "de-emphasis on books," he said.

"They're providing more room for staff, community rooms, self-serve checkout, every possible thing except books," he said.

The North and Claremont branches will undergo extensive remodeling, instead of demolition, and close for about a year beginning in January, Corbeil said. The South and West branches will close the following year, according to the current timeline.

Shelf space will stay about the same or grow at all four branches, according to the plans, but the libraries will have more room to store books that readers request from other libraries.

The fate of the South and West branches now lies with the planning and zoning departments, and ultimately with the City Council. Complicating matters, the West branch is a city-designated "structure of merit," and its demolition would have to be approved by the landmarks preservation commission.

"Even if we disagree, I think we all share a passion for libraries," Corbeil said. "But what we want to do is build a state-of-the-art library for the future, with the flexibility to adapt to whatever that might be."

E-mail Carolyn Jones at [carolynjones@sfgate.com](mailto:carolynjones@sfgate.com).

<http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2010/08/12/BAJ21EPIPT.DTL>

This article appeared on page C - 1 of the San Francisco Chronicle

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## Comments (44)



### Demolition of Berkeley branch libraries fought

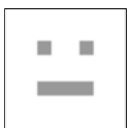
Carolyn Jones, Chronicle Staff Writer

Berkeley may be filled with passionate readers, but the recent clamor for an upgrade of the city's libraries has been greeted, in some quarters, with an angry "shhhhhh." Architectural preservationists and a library...

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**wongaia** 1:19 AM on August 13, 2010

Berkeley, above all other cities, should lead the way in a cerebral approach to preservation. The best buildings from different time periods incrementally add urban texture and cultural soul. Mid-century modernist libraries contributed to the social democratization of community institutions---and should be respected and honored. The greenest building is the one that already exists. The most enduring building is the one that its societal family already embraces.

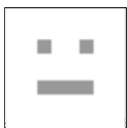
REPLY (1) (1) POPULARITY: 0 | | [Report Abuse]



**falseflagusa** 11:33 PM on August 12, 2010

Tear them down and build something truly WORTHY to be called a library. Make it so!!

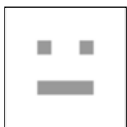
REPLY (1) (1) POPULARITY: 0 | | [Report Abuse]



**michaelstep2004** 7:01 PM on August 12, 2010

Oh, come on...if the South Branch was built in 1861, that would be one thing. But 1961??? Please. THAT Golden Age of Architecture? Tear the thing down, and put up a new building!

REPLY (2) (1) POPULARITY: 1 | | [Report Abuse]



**mgreen69** 4:41 PM on August 12, 2010

Peter Warfield is a fraud and a sociopath who relishes any opportunity to delay the renovation process. The Library Users Group consists of one or two individuals, namely Peter Warfield and whoever he has managed to drag to an open meeting. Attention Berkeley! Please disregard EVERYTHING Peter Warfield says!

REPLY (2) (1) POPULARITY: 1 | | [Report Abuse]



**John\_in\_oakland** 4:10 PM on August 12, 2010

What's really "dumb," Ms. Thompson, is finding the building more dear than the books.

REPLY (2) (1) POPULARITY: 1

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**berkeleymom** 1:53 PM on August 12, 2010

I'm frustrated our neighborhood branch (Claremont) will be closing for a full year. I guess the idea is for us to visit the downtown branch instead, but just about all public parking has been eliminated from downtown. My kids love the Children's Library at Claremont branch and I'm just not sure what we're going to do now.

REPLY (3) (2) POPULARITY: 1

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**lamplighter** 12:55 PM on August 12, 2010

The days of a lot of people using public libraries are long gone. Total waste of money to maintain a brick & mortar bldg and to pay salaries/pensions, etc. etc.

REPLY (2) (6) POPULARITY: -4

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3 replies



**freethinker** 12:55 PM on August 12, 2010

Guess you haven't set foot in a library lately, have you?

(4) (2) POPULARITY: 2

[Report Abuse](#)



**palaeologos** 12:57 PM on August 12, 2010

...Or ever.

(5) (2) POPULARITY: 3

[Report Abuse](#)



**michaelstep2004** 7:04 PM on August 12, 2010

Speak for yourself -- I use libraries constantly, and I love them. Especially nowadays with services like Link+.

(1) (0) POPULARITY: 1

[Report Abuse](#)

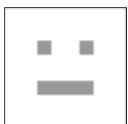


**palaeologos** 12:51 PM on August 12, 2010

Architectural preservationists? Both the South and West branches are ugly as hell. What are these people on?

REPLY (4) (2) POPULARITY: 2

[Report Abuse](#)



**borninberkeley** 12:34 PM on August 12, 2010

Did someone in Berkeley really think they could renovate or demo/rebuild anything in that city? You could find a community focus group to oppose anything in that city and the preservation groups are the worst.

REPLY (2) (1) POPULARITY: 1

[Report Abuse](#)





**boyziggy** 12:21 PM on August 12, 2010

If the library is seismically unsafe, it should be immediately closed and replaced. There is no excuse to keep seismically unsafe buildings open. The cost of renovating or replacing a seismically dangerous building is insignificant when compared with the cost of a human life. The whiners that are crying about tearing down unsafe "historical" buildings are the same type of people who delayed the east bay bridge for over a decade. This sort of delay is recklessly endangering people's lives. There no excuse for it. Earthquakes don't kill people. Stupidity and poor engineering does. Don't pay any attention to the stupid people who insist we should keep seismically unsafe buildings or bridges, or delay their replacement in any way.

REPLY (5) (2) POPULARITY: 3 | | [Report Abuse]



**libraryfanatic** 12:01 PM on August 12, 2010

Why quote Peter Warfield, who does not even live in Berkeley, and is a well-known gadfly at San Francisco Public Library? He is always against any progress. Libraries need to change as people's needs change and some buildings just cannot be renovated. Good for Berkeley Public to take the tough but rational approach.

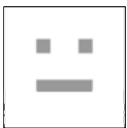
REPLY (8) (1) POPULARITY: 7 | | [Report Abuse]



**AskSwami** 11:43 AM on August 12, 2010

Don't care what it looks like--spend the money on books and materials. By the way, years ago Burlingame spent a lot of money on their rebuild, but patrons cannot use the upstairs terrace apparently because of liability issues.

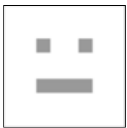
REPLY (1) (2) POPULARITY: -1 | | [Report Abuse]



**schadenfreude1** 11:09 AM on August 12, 2010

I'm in favor of fumigating the west branch, at the very least.

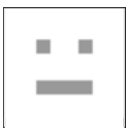
REPLY (4) (1) POPULARITY: 3 | | [Report Abuse]



**nickster56** 11:08 AM on August 12, 2010

Upgrade, at what expense? I've been told that there will be up to 40 percent cut in North and Claremont Branch book collections. Going into the library now days is like entering an internet cafe. There's little room to sit as everyone is sitting around with their noses in their laptops all day long. Kick the wi-fi using bums out, but keep the books.

REPLY (2) (6) POPULARITY: -4 | | [Report Abuse]



**RedNinjaGirl** 10:55 AM on August 12, 2010

Not being familiar with these buildings, photos of the exteriors would have been helpful with this story...

REPLY (7) (1) POPULARITY: 6 | | [Report Abuse]



**ndata** 10:30 AM on August 12, 2010

The South Branch is kindof homey. But it could use a complete overhaul. The West branch, as nice as the people are, is unpleasant in both style and design. It could defintely use a completely new building. Perhaps OFF University where they might even get some parking!! Claremont and North are both sweet. They might expand out but shouldn't change they buildings much (renovate for sure).

Don't forget it's ok to be very nice to the librarian and employees of the library. They put up with the CARAZIEST people ALL.DAY.LONG and they do it with a smile and patience. They don't make the rules... they are bound to enforce them! And before you steal from the library, DON'T. You've just stepped in the way of someone elses learning... it's really bad Karma, bad for your health and the fastest road to HELL.

[REPLY](#) (8) (1) POPULARITY: 7 | | [Report Abuse]



**pchorst** 10:18 AM on August 12, 2010

I live in Berkeley, and I am THRILLED they are tearing down South. It's tiny, dirty, and in NO WAY accomodates the public's needs. It's ALWAYS the tiny LOUD groups that win around here. It's so frustrating that nothing ever gets done right even when there's overwhelming support from the general public. SO THRILLED that the budget will be impacted while these yahoos continue to complain. Money down the drain.

[REPLY](#) (2) (1) POPULARITY: 1 | | [Report Abuse]



**publius197** 10:06 AM on August 12, 2010

The South branch is a sucky little ticky-tacky box. It is about as far from a 'structure of merit" as you can get, despite whatever some stoned 1960's hippy feels. Hopefully they will keep the tool library - that place rocks.

[REPLY](#) (7) (1) POPULARITY: 6 | | [Report Abuse]

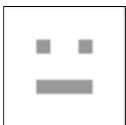


**sf-planner** 10:05 AM on August 12, 2010

Thanks for the exterior photos. Great job SFGATE again. Another need to find another resource for info.

Seattle Post Intelligence went digital; still with good writers, investigative stories, and plenty of links and photos as well about the subject matter of the vignette or article.

[REPLY](#) (4) (0) POPULARITY: 4 | | [Report Abuse]



**berkeleygrrl** 9:54 AM on August 12, 2010

South and West are the branches closest to my house and the ones we use most often. They are both ugly and cramped, and demolition/replacement is a great idea. However, I don't think closing them both at the same time is a good idea; why not stagger the schedules?

[REPLY](#) (7) (1) POPULARITY: 6 | | [Report Abuse]



**agenthoneywell** 9:48 AM on August 12, 2010

The South branch is convenient but the most hideous and badly-designed building one could possibly use for a library. I hardly even recognized it as a book library when I first went by, thinking it was the tool library. Replace that mess with something that can hold a larger collection and doesn't look like a ghetto dump please.

[REPLY](#) (5) (1) POPULARITY: 4 | | [Report Abuse]

**Reedman** 9:36 AM on August 12, 2010

Prediction: when the first work (remodeling or demolition) starts on the first library, they will find asbestos and mold and the cost estimates will double.

REPLY (8) (0) POPULARITY: 8

| | [Report Abuse]

▶ 1 reply

**monkeyisland** 9:33 AM on August 12, 2010

Change happens.

REPLY (5) (3) POPULARITY: 2

| | [Report Abuse]

**rueben** 9:18 AM on August 12, 2010

While you're at it, just tear everything else down too, and evict the the city government and the fools who voted for them.

Until that happens Berkeley will remain a toilet full of lunatics, degenerates, criminals, layabouts, communists, and idiots (including 80% of the UC faculty).

REPLY (4) (16) POPULARITY: -12

| | [Report Abuse]

▼ 4 replies

**ndata** 10:34 AM on August 12, 2010

No no no... tell everyone how you really feel. Even if 90% of it is hyperbole! Now I've seen some loonies, degenerates, criminals, layabouts, commies and idiots in many a city... NONE on the faculty of an accredited University known for great learning. none. I dunno... sounds like you got a wire crossed there. Or an axe to grind... or a misplaced corncob...

(2) (2) POPULARITY: 0

| | [Report Abuse]

**anticap** 10:47 AM on August 12, 2010

Ha ha. Rueben surely lives in some suburban wasteland devoid of interest.

(2) (2) POPULARITY: 0

| | [Report Abuse]

**meliflaw** 12:03 PM on August 12, 2010

Sorry, rueben, but I've lived here half my life, and am neither a lunatic, a degenerate, a criminal, a layabout, a communist, nor an idiot--nor are any of my various friends and neighbors. Most Berkeleyites are just folk who happen to enjoy family, community, education and politics. If you don't like those things, there's no need to visit. We wish you well, but we shall not miss you.

(2) (2) POPULARITY: 0

| | [Report Abuse]



**rieben** 2:19 PM on August 12, 2010

Sorry meliflaw,

I earned two degrees from Cal & lived in Berkeley for five years (& got the hell out ASAP): MOST of Berkeley are 1 or more of the following: lunatics, degenerates, criminals, layabouts, communists, & idiots - including 80% of the UC faculty.

As for "some suburban wasteland devoid of interest", you must mean those places that are well-maintained, have low or non-existent crime rates, & have residents with a much higher average level of education than Berkeley, & have actually done something productive & INTERESTING with their lives.

By the way, some very LIBERAL friends of mine who live in Berkeley recently pulled their kid OUT of the ignorance & 'political correctness' factory called Berkeley High School & put the kid in a GOOD school in one of those "suburban wasteland[s] devoid of interest", because of the conditions I accurately describe.

Berkeley is a filthy hell - an epitome of what happens when unfettered socialist thought is in control.

"Change."



POPULARITY: 1



**fume\_blanc** 9:15 AM on August 12, 2010

These "preservationists" should count their blessing in being able to rebuild to serve many more in the future.

SF won't likely see library improvement funds for some time and it's a pity that a "newly improved" branch like West Portal provided little more than new bathrooms as a feature accessible to patrons. A truly missed opportunity in such a kid/student dense neighborhood.



POPULARITY: 0



▶ 1 reply



**mcm** 9:00 AM on August 12, 2010

Remember the SFPL Main library debacle? Not only does the "new" Main have less space than the old, it was outdated before it was finished. They also lost thousands of books, some of them rare - which could have been sold to raise money. They designed a thoroughly inappropriate building instead or add on or renovate the old one in the name of progress, not because they considered what libraries do and what people need.

Although they have lecture halls and meeting rooms, libraries are not community centers. They are places for books, in whatever electronic form those books take and resources. Turning libraries into community centers without providing funding for those additional purposes means less money for the increasingly expensive books, subscriptions, eBooks, utility bills, magazines news sources and other things libraries should and need to contain.



POPULARITY: 7



▼ 2 replies



**pistoffoclese** 9:20 AM on August 12, 2010

Yes, some of us remember the SF Main Library debacle --- an architect's wet dream with wretched signage, clumsy access, little wayside shrines to political correctness and almost no books. The first time I visited there I wanted to browse the stacks for a research project. Frustrated, I finally went to the desk and asked, "Where are all the books?" The librarian told me to list the ones I wanted and they would retrieve them from storage!

Later the stunning 'New Yorker' article described how truckloads of books were dumped for lack of space. Sickening.

Berkeley, which voted serious money to support libraries, does not deserve the same treatment.



POPULARITY: 6



[Report Abuse]



**freethinker** 11:10 AM on August 12, 2010

Berkeley is not going to GET the same treatment. Clearly no one reading this has been to any of the planning meetings, and has no idea of what the renovations/new buildings are designed to house. Educate yourselves before you post your ignorance for all to see. And, just for the record, I, too, hate the new SF Main library.



POPULARITY: 1



[Report Abuse]



**mikeofelctown** 8:51 AM on August 12, 2010

The stucco apartments in Berkeley that replaced many old victorians in the fifties and sixties should also be declared "classic" Amurukana?



POPULARITY: 6



[Report Abuse]



**rousta\_bout** 8:37 AM on August 12, 2010

The Berkeley do-nothing association spends a lot of time on the South branch - but they do not include an exterior photo.

Their description makes it sound like a cinderblock structure that once had some wood in the interior. A google image search for south berkeley public library turns up no images of the outside, which tends to reinforce my suspicion that this is a big scab that can stand to be picked.



POPULARITY: 6



[Report Abuse]

2 replies



**agenthoneywell** 9:51 AM on August 12, 2010

It's the dumpty building on the corner across the street from the house with the nice front yard.

[http://maps.google.com/maps?um=1&ie=UTF-8&q=south+berkeley+library&fb=1&gl=us&hq=south+berkeley+library&hnear=Oakland,+CA&cid=0,0,10578503922950957754&ei=UCZkTI-iH4OC8gbQ6sSeCQ&sa=X&oi=local\\_result&ct=image&resnum=4&ved=0CCgQnwlwAw](http://maps.google.com/maps?um=1&ie=UTF-8&q=south+berkeley+library&fb=1&gl=us&hq=south+berkeley+library&hnear=Oakland,+CA&cid=0,0,10578503922950957754&ei=UCZkTI-iH4OC8gbQ6sSeCQ&sa=X&oi=local_result&ct=image&resnum=4&ved=0CCgQnwlwAw)



POPULARITY: -1



[Report Abuse]



**agenthoneywell** 9:52 AM on August 12, 2010

Need to add that you need to click into "street view"/



POPULARITY: -1



[Report Abuse]

**CowboyBob** 8:36 AM on August 12, 2010

Sorry but I have no love of 60s cinderblock ranch style architecture. That and the south branch is tiny, just about as much space as your average house.

REPLY (7) (2) POPULARITY: 5

| | [Report Abuse]

**pvtruth** 8:21 AM on August 12, 2010

only in Berkeley

REPLY (3) (7) POPULARITY: -4

| | [Report Abuse]

▼ 1 reply

**anticap** 10:51 AM on August 12, 2010

Another canned response from an ignorant ditto dummy.

(3) (1) POPULARITY: 2

| | [Report Abuse]

**mcghee** 8:04 AM on August 12, 2010

Berkeley's so-called preservationists are a handful of conservative, knee-jerk NIMBYs who oppose everything, for whatever reason. They include many of the same folks who oppose all of Berkeley's bond measures to improve the schools, libraries, pools and emergency services. This is about politics, not libraries.

REPLY (9) (3) POPULARITY: 6

| | [Report Abuse]

*Name withheld* 8:01 AM on August 12, 2010

*This comment was left by a user who has been blocked by our staff.*

**PacificFurry** 8:01 AM on August 12, 2010

SF Chronicle TABLOID editors run any piece with BERKELEY in the banner, because they know that even the most inane piece with BERKELEY in the headline will get tons of hate flames from the ignorant masses in the red states and the OC!

Lots of ignorant, knee jerk comments mean more hits on the SFGate Comments, and higher numbers for the salesmen pushing SFGate advertising.

Nothing to inconsequential is too run to boost hits to the website. The fact is that small towns in California, Nevadah and Coloraduh have more fruits and nuts per square inch than Berkeley!

REPLY (7) (7) POPULARITY: 0

| | [Report Abuse]

▼ 1 reply

**anticap** 12:55 PM on August 12, 2010

Quite true. The SF Gate panders to reactionary dumb-bells and ditto dummies who think they're striking a blow against socialism by posting at a site that does everything in its capacity to attract them.

It reminds me of the fact that Michael Savage's career was started by a self-professed liberal who saw big bucks in Savage's inane bluster.

(1) (2) POPULARITY: -1

| | [Report Abuse]



**jetnoise72** 7:31 AM on August 12, 2010

The South Branch is ugly. But, tear it down and rebuild it quickly because it is a great neighborhood resource. Try building something beautiful this time.

REPLY (21) (4) POPULARITY: 17

[Report Abuse]

4 replies



**jetnoise72** 7:45 AM on August 12, 2010

Here is a photo of the South Branch. That cinder block is so charming:

<http://www.dailycal.org/photos/20100802/109927-08.02.southlib.VIGNET-01.jpg>

(7) (3) POPULARITY: 4

[Report Abuse]



**docjay00** 10:13 AM on August 12, 2010

Thanks for the photo, jet. Who wants to keep a building that looks like an outhouse in a state park?

(5) (0) POPULARITY: 5

[Report Abuse]



**Elementary** 10:30 AM on August 12, 2010

you could put a 7-11 with a magazine rack in there

(3) (0) POPULARITY: 3

[Report Abuse]



**Mom41** 5:26 AM on August 13, 2010

My goodness, that is truly awful. I was prepared to see a plain building, but this is out and out tacky. Get those Extreme Library Makeover folks in quick!

(1) (0) POPULARITY: 1

[Report Abuse]

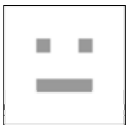


**freethinker** 7:30 AM on August 12, 2010

Do the people complaining even live in Berkeley? Do they use either the South or West Branches on a regular basis? If not, it's time to zip it. Have they not considered that without meeting rooms there is nowhere to hold a story time? Or a special program for children or adults? Or a book discussion group? (And yes, BPL still has those and they are wildly popular.) Do these people know anyone who has worked in these buildings for extensive periods of time? Have they bothered to talk to employees to understand the employees perspective? How about the patrons? Have they talked to them? Or is it just the old building (no matter how dysfunctional/inadequate) = good building. Not everything old is worth preserving.

REPLY (16) (5) POPULARITY: 11

[Report Abuse]



**gadflies** 7:20 AM on August 12, 2010

I just love it when the word "Mandate" is tossed about.

REPLY (2) (6) POPULARITY: -4

[Report Abuse]



**rogbo** 7:11 AM on August 12, 2010

And today, in Berkeley there was no open drug dealing no public urination no aggressive panhandling and no third world encampment in peoples park.

Thanks for covering what really matters to Berkeley residents

REPLY (6) (10) POPULARITY: -4

[Report Abuse]



**erneim** 7:04 AM on August 12, 2010

It's not important. Libraries used to be places you went to read and check out books. Now they are places teens log on the net, chat on their cell phones and hang out. The noise levels ( and believe me the librarians help with this) are incredible. I can't imagine how anyone can read in a library today.

REPLY (8) (10) POPULARITY: -2 [Report Abuse]

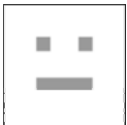
1 reply



**anticap** 10:53 AM on August 12, 2010

You're just making things up. That, or you have some sort of auditory processing disorder and need help.

(2) (2) POPULARITY: 0 [Report Abuse]



**femall** 6:39 AM on August 12, 2010

Berkeley, the most nostalgic place on earth.

REPLY (4) (7) POPULARITY: -3 [Report Abuse]

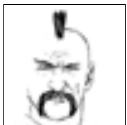
1 reply



**illiniguy** 8:49 AM on August 12, 2010

I guess you haven't been to Martinez.

(2) (1) POPULARITY: 1 [Report Abuse]



**kreniigh** 6:33 AM on August 12, 2010

Ha! A joke about librarians shushing people! What lazy, lazy writing.

REPLY (7) (4) POPULARITY: 3 [Report Abuse]



**Natural510** 6:23 AM on August 12, 2010

Exactly. The South branch is the same as any other unremarkable house in the neighborhood, and the West Branch is a similarly unremarkable slab of concrete. The new buildings could be nothing less than an upgrade...

If this is what protest has come down to in Berkeley, we'll be counting the days til the boomers are dribbling from their sippy-cups, too far gone with dementia to cast a ballot. Then perhaps Berkeley may take its pretentiousness down a notch and become a great town with a gov't & populace who are competent enough to know when not to meddle.

REPLY (19) (10) POPULARITY: 9 [Report Abuse]

6 replies



**missmimsey** 7:56 AM on August 12, 2010

Berkeley is pretentious, no doubt.

Please, however, try being a little kinder and stop wishing for the dementia of your elders. One day, you will also be an elder.

Thanks.

(7) (7) POPULARITY: 0 [Report Abuse]



**pvtruth** 8:20 AM on August 12, 2010

ageist

(6) (3) POPULARITY: 3 [Report Abuse]





**xspotsters** 10:20 AM on August 12, 2010

I know and love many great boomer folk, but must admit the world will be a better place once the boomer generation is no longer politically viable.

👍 (0) 🗨️ (6) POPULARITY: -6 [↔️](#) | [✉️](#) | [🚫](#) [Report Abuse]



**ndata** 10:22 AM on August 12, 2010

Maybe you will get to be an elder. You might even get your very own sippy cup. Clearly you've already gone into dementia so at least you've got one foot in the right direction.

👍 (3) 🗨️ (1) POPULARITY: 2 [↔️](#) | [✉️](#) | [🚫](#) [Report Abuse]



**dsteven2** 5:39 PM on August 12, 2010

As a boomer myself, I still have to agree, those two buildings are representative of an architecture I'd like to forget. More like early 60's elementary schools. It's time Berkeley upgraded...now its nap time...

👍 (1) 🗨️ (0) POPULARITY: 1 [↔️](#) | [✉️](#) | [🚫](#) [Report Abuse]



**Robin\_Hood** 6:40 PM on August 12, 2010

Somebody's got a little bitterness issue with mommy and daddy.

👍 (1) 🗨️ (1) POPULARITY: 0 [↔️](#) | [✉️](#) | [🚫](#) [Report Abuse]



**spockhere** 6:23 AM on August 12, 2010

Captain... Dr. McCoy goes to the Library after Dinner... to listen to the Reader's Digest... Interesting...

🗨️ REPLY 👍 (3) 🗨️ (10) POPULARITY: -7 [↔️](#) | [✉️](#) | [🚫](#) [Report Abuse]

1 reply



*Name withheld* 6:36 AM on August 12, 2010

*This comment has violated our Terms and Conditions, and has been removed.*



**teezee** 6:19 AM on August 12, 2010

What constitutes classic mid-century modern is NOT the South Branch. It's THIS: <http://www.moderntulsa.net/>

🗨️ REPLY 👍 (13) 🗨️ (1) POPULARITY: 12 [↔️](#) | [✉️](#) | [🚫](#) [Report Abuse]



**commenterr** 6:04 AM on August 12, 2010

The South branch is nothing special in my book. Library as ranch house.

🗨️ REPLY 👍 (29) 🗨️ (6) POPULARITY: 23 [↔️](#) | [✉️](#) | [🚫](#) [Report Abuse]

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**HEARST** *newspapers*

## Berkeley history: North Berkeley library branch planned in 1935

By Steven Finacom  
Berkeley Historical Society

Posted: 08/12/2010 10:26:44 AM PDT

Updated: 08/12/2010 10:26:44 AM PDT

Construction of a new \$60,000 branch public library building in North Berkeley today neared realization following a conference last night of city officials and members of the Board of Library Trustees in the offices of City Manager Hollis R. Thompson," the Berkeley Daily Gazette reported 75 years ago, Aug. 13, 1935.

"Possible sites for the new structure, which will be built without cost to the taxpayer, were discussed at the meeting. The one most favored is at the head of Solano Avenue and the Alameda," the news article continued.

"However, due to the present plans of the City to open Solano Avenue through to connect with Los Angeles Avenue, at or near Contra Costa Avenue, definite selection of this site will be held in abeyance as city engineers prepare plans for the proposed street opening."

"If there is sufficient room left on which to build the proposed library and landscape the grounds, it is believed the Board of Library Trustees will select the Solano Avenue site." The site, the article said, was "one of many" vacant parcels within "a four block radius of the Circle" that had been considered by the City.

The city had \$28,000 set aside in a library fund to build the structure, and hoped to get federal assistance through Public Works Administration grants for the remainder.

"I believe the construction of a branch library in North Berkeley is a project that is worthy and now, that we can

get Federal aid, is the time to build it," said Mayor Edward N. Ament.

Longtime readers of this column may recall that Ament was a former president of the Board of Library Trustees. He had presided at the dedication of the Central Library in Downtown Berkeley, then been appointed to the Council, from which he rose to the mayoralty.

The North Branch Library would ultimately be built at the intersection of The Alameda and Hopkins Street, not the proposed location near Solano and The Alameda.

That's a busy stretch of Solano today, connecting as it does to the tunnel that runs beneath Marin. In 1935, interurban railway trains, not private motor vehicles, used the tunnel.

Meanwhile, on Aug. 14, the City Council approved a contract for removal of streetcar tracks from Monterey Avenue to San Lorenzo Avenue.



## The Latest Public Library Loan? Electricity Meters

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By David Rapp Aug 16, 2010

Spurred by concerns about conservation and cost, public utilities across the country have begun to partner with libraries, enabling loans of portable [Kill A Watt](#) electricity meters, which can be used to gauge home power usage.

Once home, a patron plugs the meter into the wall, plugs an appliance into the meter, and enters electricity rate information. The meter then shows how much power the appliance uses and how much that power costs.



### Broad interest nationally

The meters are a huge hit in some libraries: at the [Seattle Public Library](#) (SPL), there are currently 660 holds on 100 meters, according to the SPL's online [catalog](#).

Such initiatives have been underway in several library systems over the past year or so, including the [Boston Public Library](#) (BPL) ([announced](#) in June 2009), where the initiative is a partnership with the city and the power company, and the SPL ([announced](#) in May 2010), a partnership with the local power company.

A program instituted by the [Georgia Public Library Service](#) (GPLS) in Atlanta began in August 2009, funded with a one-time grant through a state agency, the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority (now called the [Georgia Environmental Finance Authority](#)). "Ours was definitely not the first," GPLS Communications Director David Baker told *LJ*, adding that at the time there had already been smaller programs in Illinois, Maine, and New Hampshire.

The latest libraries to embrace the trend, according to an [article](#) on the *San Jose Mercury News* site last week, are in Santa Clara County, CA, including branches of the San Jose Public Library and those in other jurisdictions. That initiative involves [Silicon Valley Energy Watch](#), a partnership including the city of San Jose and [Pacific Gas & Electric](#).

### Popular for now

In Seattle, where the initiative is fully funded by public utility [Seattle City Light](#), the meters have been a hit with patrons. According to SPL spokesperson Caroline Ullmann, the library system doubled its supply of meters for loan from 50 to 100 in the past three months in order to keep up with demand. (The Kill A Watt model 4400 available in Seattle currently [retails](#) in the \$20 range.)

The Kill A Watt meters appear to be popular in Santa Clara County, as well. According to the Santa Clara County Library's online [catalog](#), there are currently 96 Kill A Watt EZ Meters available for loan—with 179 holds. (The Kill A Watt model 4460 available in Santa Clara currently [retails](#) in the \$30 range.)

Whether patrons' enthusiasm will last once the novelty wears off remains to be seen. At BPL, for example, where the meters have been available for more than a year, only one of the 48 meters in BPL's [catalog](#) is currently checked out.

### Loaning the unusual

These initiatives are examples of how non-media items can fit into a library's circulation system.

The Berkeley Public Library, CA, for example, has a [Tool Lending Library](#), the Richmond Public Library, CA, has a [seed-lending library](#), the Iowa City Public Library loans [art](#), and there are several libraries in Rhode Island that loan [fishing gear](#).

(Update: The trend continues. On August 18, the [Jefferson County Public Library](#), Lakewood, CO, announced that it was making 20 Power Check electricity meters available for checkout, supplied by power company [Xcel Energy](#). Power Check meters were also made [available](#) at the [Grand Forks Public Library](#), ND, in June.)





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# NEWS & OPINION



Party Program, 8/4

## Loved the Party

East Bay Express; YOU MUST DO THIS AGAIN REAL SOON IN THE EXACT SAME PLACE: JACK LONDON SQUARE. THIS WAS AN EXCELLENT, EXCELLENT EVENT FROM THE BEGINNING TO THE END! I HAD A WONDERFUL TIME!!!

*Elvine Lucas, Oakland*

"Perata Nearing Expenditure Cap," Full Disclosure, 8/11

## A Rising Voice of Support

Even if you subtract the loan that Jean Quan gave to her campaign, there is a rising voice of support from the people of Oakland for her campaign. We, the people, are not idiots. We want honesty, integrity, and experience in office matched with a healthy dose of fiscal responsibility. If Quan has only spent \$26,000 to Perata's \$322,000, that tells me that she is thinking about the money she has been given by her supporters, regardless of their station in life. I want someone who will do the same with city funds as they address the needs of the city as a whole. People tell us who they are, we must learn to listen. If we hold politicians accountable for their actions, our city will be a better place to live.

*Renee Davis, Oakland*

## Remembrance of Funds Past

Interesting conundrum, but quoting Quan about "violation of all the campaign laws" only reminds us how she financed her campaign for a \$146 million bond to build a palace library in

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2006. Nearly half the funds came from businesses holding a contract or angling for one with the City. Quan lost anyway.

*Charles Pine, Oakland*

"Citizens Outspending Cops 5:1 in Prop 19," News, 8/3

## Why Fed Involvement Matters

Here's why federal involvement in the anti-Prop 19 campaign — activity which does not get reported to any state authorities — matters: money. For example, the Office of National Drug Control Policy funds many local-level anti-drug programs, mostly through the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America. Local groups and activists receiving CADCA funding have to know that a public show of support for Prop 19 could put their funding in jeopardy. Such a quid pro quo doesn't have to be publicly stated; it's just politics. It is arguable whether any recipient of federal moneys — from the Attorney General or other federal sources, not only ONDCP — who opposes the measure publicly is motivated to do so because of a hope to please their funders. Yet I'm not making that sort of claim, and I'm certainly not accusing anyone of insincerity. I am merely observing that reports to the state on campaign spending related to this issue do not fully reflect opposition spending.

*Doug McVay, Oakland*

"Oakland Leaders Want Higher Taxes — Not Real Reform," Seven Days, 8/4

## More Political Pandering

It's amazing what both local and state politicians do. They focus on getting reelected and looking good. They need endorsements and funding for their next campaign run. How they "look" not what they do matters. No one can be "anti union" — but what about the citizens? Are they expendable? The council folks will say what the people want to hear but they ignore hard realities of finances for the city because the unions lean hard on them and the general public is disengaged. I do not see any real leadership for the city as a whole just more political pandering. It's much easier to just raise taxes to cover a gap. When will someone have the courage to really deal with cutting spending, saying NO to city employees who get benefits that far exceed what any average person gets and focus on growing the economy and creating jobs for Oakland citizens?

*Steven Donaldson, Oakland*

"BART's Broken Promise," News, 12/02

## Blast From the Past

Due to the recent bad press given to Antioch by *The Wall Street Journal* and the *SF Chronicle*, I was looking to see what good things I could find about this city. Imagine my surprise to read this piece about Antioch and Pittsburg funding a BART system which seems to have had no real intention of ever extending its line to those cities. BART has taken its money, how-

ever, for all these years since 1969, right? BART, you are plainly pitiful. And an EBART??? Ridiculous. Just put the damn regular BART into these cities already. If you start now, maybe these men's children will see the result by the time they are grown or have grandchildren, at the rate you are going. WHO is running BART, the Three Stooges?

*Phyllis Petras, El Sobrante*

"AC Transit Sickout," News, 7/28

## The Damn Food Factor

The current service crisis at AC Transit could have been avoided if the "damn fool" factor had been eliminated from both their management and the local city government at large.

Back in the halcyon days when our Panglossian economists assured everybody that the economy would ever go up and up (and many civic leaders stupidly believed them), busybody social engineers decided that it would be a good time to implement utopian public transportation schemes that had here-to-fore existed only in their own little bourgeois-parochial minds. This included a not-so-hidden agenda to discourage private motor vehicle ownership as "politically incorrect."

However, a number of serious problems were not factored in. These included: (1) No economy has ever increased, or even sustained, itself into perpetuity, or ever will. (2) No public transportation system has ever provided services as needed for each and every citizen under each and every circumstance. (3) More narrowly, public transportation shortcomings become exacerbated when the management in charge is rife with incompetence, corruption, and cronyism, as AC Transit is and has always been. (4) More broadly, no utopian idea has ever been implemented without sooner or later going seriously astray; either it dies stillborn, or the wonders of Hegelian dialectic (more commonly known as the rule of unintended consequences) it becomes something else, often the opposite. (5) Americans, being in the main a collection of rebels, misfits, outcasts and/or criminals (or their descendants) have this in common: they despise restrictions on their personal freedoms almost as much as they distrust "good intentions." They know, as I do, what road these pave. One look at the history of Prohibition says it all.

For lack of realistic outlook and a grounded fiscal policy, AC Transit and the state at large is now in deep trouble. It's a shame us "just plain folks" have to suffer because of our civic leaders malfeasance; but the disgrace now suffered by our social cadre is one they thoroughly deserve.

*James Fenton, Oakland*

"Pixar's Animation and Artistry," Events 7/28

## These Weren't Mainframes

When you write "25 years ago, when computers were still big and prohibitively expensive for most users," you're revising history a bit. In reality, the Apple II had come out in 1977; the Mac was introduced in 1984; and many office workplaces (mine at the time included) adopted the IBM PC with basic Visicalc software in the 1980-82 time frame. Sure, graphics capabilities of these machines were minimal, but the machines themselves were becoming widespread.

*Kevin Walsh, Emeryville*

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# The Daily Californian Online

## Public Library's Central Branch to Undergo Reorganization

By [Zoe Filippenko](#)  
Contributing Writer  
Tuesday, August 24, 2010  
Category: [News](#) > [City](#)

Thousands of items at the Berkeley Public Library's central branch will be reorganized by the end of the year in an effort to make the library more accommodating for patrons.

Some of the library's collection of books, audio tapes, VHS videos and DVDs - especially those in the foreign languages and nonfiction genres - will be consolidated. Additionally, magazines and popular media will be moved to a new reading area, all for a price tag of \$30,000 from the library's discretionary fund, according to Sharon Thygesen, the city's general services manager.

The project, which will begin Oct. 1, is so comprehensive that Douglas Smith, deputy director of library services, said it is more cost-effective to hire a professional moving company rather than assign the task to the library's staff.

According to Thygesen, moving companies that apply for the project will be evaluated after the bid's submission deadline Aug. 31. The contract will be awarded to the winning vendor by Sept. 10, tentatively.

The relocation of materials and shelves will make the library more accessible for both regulars and first-time visitors, Smith said.

He added that the decision to conduct this project coincides with upcoming renovations to other branches of the city's libraries, which will be funded by Measure FF funds.

In 2008, Berkeley voters approved \$26 million in bond money to expand four of the city's branch libraries and bring them up to seismic code, excluding the central library. Reorganization of the central branch will not be paid for with these funds, although it will be affected by upcoming construction.

"We do expect increase in traffic at (the) central library when other branches close," Smith said. "This motivated us to look at the layout and select specific areas to rearrange and accommodate greater use."

This project may foreshadow additional accommodations the central branch may have to make once other branches close for renovation, as materials may be shuffled around and stored in other libraries, including the central branch, according to Smith.

Although four of the city's libraries are scheduled for renovations in the coming months, the intended use of the bond money has sparked some controversy among community members.

However, while only the central branch is being reorganized, the majority of the moving will occur outside of operation hours. The library will remain open throughout the project in order to minimize disruption and maintain accessibility, Smith said.

He added that most of the collections that will be relocated will still be available to patrons with occasional exceptions.

"Part of what we found in our developing plan a few years ago was that people really want quick and easy access to materials," Smith said. "They want a functional, comfortable environment, and that's what we're doing."

Tags: [measure ff](#), [berkeley public library](#)

Article Link: <http://www.dailycal.org/article/110082>



## Shame on Berkeley Public Library

Recent Proposals by the Library Risk Destroying Key Architectural and Cultural Civic History



JOY CHEN ILLUSTRATI

By PETER WARFIELD  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER  
Tuesday, August 31, 2010  
Category: Opinion > Op-Eds

"Things are seldom what they seem,  
Skim milk masquerades as cream"

-William S. Gilbert, from H.M.S. Pinafore



#### Related Articles »

- Public Library's Central Branch to Undergo Reorganization - *Tue, Aug 24, 2010*
- Proposed Renovations to Public Library Branches Face Criticism - *Mon, Aug 2, 2010*
- Local Antique Bookstore Could Close - *Mon, May 3, 2010*

As UC Berkeley students, faculty and staff, arrive to animate another academic semester, one of the draws is Berkeley itself, a city with tree-lined streets and much excellent architecture - but lurking below the surface is an ugly move to demolish the public library to demolish two of four library branches, both of which have considerable architectural merit. Plans also include quietly and dramatically dumbing down one of the country's most generously funded (on a per-capita basis) public libraries.

Corporatization, privatization and a lack of appreciation for local architectural history are all part of the mix. For journalism students, there's bad (and absent) coverage of a story that will affect Berkeleyans for a generation or more. For architecture students, there's excellent local architecture, unappreciated. For everyone, there's betrayal of the voters and library patrons, as bond monies intended for renovations and expansions are used to install a variety of programmatic changes without any discussion with the public.

Background: Voters approved Measure FF in November 2008, providing up to \$26 million "to renovate, expand, and make seismic and access improvements at four neighborhood branch libraries." The library's publicity boasted that the West Branch had been designated by the city as a "structure of merit." The library's own consultants, Noll and Tam, reported that South Branch library appears to be eligible for listing as a landmark "for its association with architect John Hans Ostwald and potentially for its design characteristics."

However, after passage of Measure FF, the library administration changed its tune, and now intends to tear down both West Branch and South Branch and replace them with brand-new buildings.

Additionally, there is a range of changes that the voters were not told about, and about which the library administration has said little or nothing to the public.

Book Cuts and Book De-emphasis. Books and materials are to be severely cut at one branch, and proportionally de-emphasized at the three others. At Claremont Branch, the plans publicly presented in May called for a 22 percent cut in linear feet of shelving (lf); that is, 913 lf were to be cut from the current total of 4,027. At the same time, Claremont's floor space is to increase slightly, by 342 square feet. Unannounced to the public: public space will actually decrease slightly, according to a Planning Department memo to the Zoning Adjustments Board July 22. Other branches are to get floor space increases of 50 to 77 percent but shelving is to increase by about one-tenth the amount.

For example, South Branch is to get a 63 percent increase in floor space, but only 4 percent of that is for books. Believe it or not, the architect reported that the library's program (plan given to the architect) provided for one - yes single - linear foot increase in shelving, or about the span of a large person's hand.

Elimination of Reference Desks.

All reference desks at all branches are to be eliminated. The library's building plans say that the reference librarians will be encouraged to roam around, but we heard similar promises when the library installed privacy-threatening RFID for book checkout several years ago. We haven't seen it happen.

Privatization. Privatization of a once-proudly public institution is occurring as plans to raise money for furniture and fixtures include placement of donor names on dozens of places and things in the branches, including rooms, book shelves, areas for Adults, Children and Teens, staff areas, etc. Get ready for the possibility of the BP chandelier, or the Enron business book case.

Permanent zoning changes. The library recently got Berkeley's zoning law changed so that it could not just carry out changes under Measure FF, but make any changes to existing buildings, including the main (downtown) library, without ever having to get a Variance - including demolitions with replacement by a new building. That sets the planning bar much lower than before, and subjects the library to far less stringent standards than before. (A use permit would still be required.)

John Hans Ostwald, South Branch's architect, came to the Bay Area from Nazi-darkened Europe at the beginning of World War II, and designed hundreds of houses and renovations, many in Berkeley and in the East Bay. His designs "helped bring international recognition to the (newly developing) Bay Area style," according to John Hans Ostwald, Architect, by Donald Reay and UC graduate Peter Paret. His South Branch library won awards, including the American Institute of Architects/American Library Association Award of Merit in 1966. But Donna Corbeil, Berkeley library head, was quoted in a local blog about the same building as follows:

It's a concrete block building," she said. "It was a cute design for its time, but it was really built on the cheap."

There have been some successes for civic activists. The Berkeley Daily Planet has so far published four Library User Association Commentaries, starting May 25, 2010, plus several supportive letters and a commentary. Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association has stated strong opposition to the demolitions. And the library director said, at the last meeting of the library's governing body July 14, that the damage to Claremont's book capacity would be reduced. The plans would now cut 574 lf of shelving instead of the original 913 - still a massive reduction.

There is a great deal more in this story, and a great deal of useful work still to be done. For more information, contact us at [libraryusers2004@yahoo.com](mailto:libraryusers2004@yahoo.com).

Tags: [MEASURE FF](#), [BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY](#)

Peter Warfield is executive director of the Library Users Association. Reply at [opinion@dailycal.org](mailto:opinion@dailycal.org).

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[Leave a comment](#)

**Echo 8 items**

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Guest

psst -- hey Warfield here's some information for you:  
The overwhelming majority of students at Cal don't care about Berkeley public libraries.  
We go to the university libraries, well some of us anyway, the rest - they can't even read.  
Yesterday, 7:05:30 AM – Like – Reply



Guest

We need a modern Adobe style La Rasa take over America and throw out whitey architecture. That is the going creed of UCB, so the community should just fall along. And do away with all restaurants that are not taco stands.

5 days ago, 3:46:58 PM – Like – Reply



**Guest**

we need fewer trolls like you posting on the DailyCal comment board so do you go to Stanford, are you spam-bot, or do you go to UC and work in the presumably very boring DailyCal newsroom?

Yesterday, 7:01:40 AM – Like – Reply



**Max**

Shame on the Daily Cal for printing this collection of rampant lies. For some obscure psychological reason, Warfield has devoted his life to hating libraries. He is a sociopath and his so-called group consists of him alone. He has made such a fool of himself in San Francisco that few people will listen to him. Now he has decided to plague our city and to try to thwart the creation of beautiful new neighborhood libraries where they are badly needed. The West and South branch libraries are seismically unsafe and ugly. Give us new buildings!

Wednesday, September 01, 2010, 6:27:14 AM – Like – Reply

Liked by palaeologos Guest



**guest**

Peter Warfield is a professional library basher. I know that's hard to believe, since libraries are among our most democratic and effective institutions, but he spends all his time going to public meetings about libraries in several cities, bashing plans for renovations. In Berkeley, the two branches to be rebuilt serve neighborhoods that deserve libraries equal to those in other neighborhoods. Behind the library campaign is an effort to provide equivalent and up to date facilities throughout the city. Peter Warfield, I hear, intends to sue the city over plans for these two branches. That will of course cost the city a lot of money to defend and will bring delays in the provision of adequate, modern libraries in all of Berkeley's neighborhoods. Those plans were drafted after numerous public meetings regarding plans for all four branches. The public has had it's say, plans were drafted accordingly, Warfield stands in the way of the public's will in Berkeley.

Tuesday, August 31, 2010, 2:01:44 PM – Like – Reply

Liked by Guest



**Guest**

In trying to figure out who this Peter Warfield guy is, it looks like he is a one man crusade against public libraries. Searching on Google turns up hundreds of hits on Warfield's crusade to beat up on libraries: <http://bit.ly/aoXNVp> . Why should Berkeley care what a San Franciscan has to say about a voter approved bond to fix our run down libraries? Give me a break.

Tuesday, August 31, 2010, 1:33:52 PM – Like – Reply

Liked by palaeologos



**Guest**

I have to agree with the librarian. The South Branch is really mediocre architecture, unworthy of preservation. The site could house something better.

Tuesday, August 31, 2010, 9:04:23 AM – Like – Reply

Liked by Guest



**palaeologos**

And the same goes double for the West Branch.

What Warfield is spouting (whoever he is) sounds exactly like the rhetoric of Nicholson Baker. The problem is that both Warfield and Baker are right about some things; I agree that cutting stacks space is a mistake. On the other hand, Nick Baker resented every square inch of space given to digital resources, and made the idiotic claim that brittle paper isn't a preservation problem. And we have Warfield waxing rhapsodic about the architectural merits of two extremely ugly (and unsafe) public buildings.

I think the last thing Berkeley needs is a carpetbagger coming into the city to stir the pot. I'm sure San Francisco has plenty of problems that Mr Warfield could turn his impressive intellect and impassioned voice to solving.

Tuesday, August 31, 2010, 1:42:34 PM – Like – Reply

Liked by  Guest





# Communications

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Copies of individual communications are available for viewing at the Berkeley Public Library Administration Office and during the Board of Library Trustees meeting in the Public Viewing Binder.