



BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

SPECIAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 16, 2011

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**

II. PRESENTATIONS CALENDAR

- A. **Technical Services Department** – Megan McArdle
- B. **Update on Measure FF Projects - Temporary Closure of Claremont and North Branches for Improvements** – Suzanne Olawski

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 January 12, 2011 Regular Meeting**
Recommendation: Approve the minutes of the January 12, 2011 regular meeting of the Board of Library Trustees.
- B. **Acceptance of Grants and Gifts Proceeds and Appropriation to the FY 2011 Revised Budget.**
Recommendation: Adopt a resolution authorizing the Director of Library Services to accept awarded grants and gifts and to appropriate those funds as identified in section Fiscal Impacts of Recommendation to the FY11 Revised Budget.

IV. INFORMATION REPORTS

- A. **Library Budget Update**
Discussion of mid-year 2011 budget status report and FY 2012 / 2013 budget update process.
- B. **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.
- C. **February 2011 Monthly Report from Library Director**
 - i. Library Development
 - ii. Professional Activities
 - iii. Programs, Services and Collections
 - iv. Personnel
- D. **Central Library Project Update – Doug Smith**

- E. **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, March 9, 2011 at the **South Branch Library, 1901 Russell Street**, Berkeley.

VI. CLOSED SESSION

- A. **Public Employee Performance Evaluation** (*Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957*)
 Title of position being evaluated: Director of Library Services
 The Board of Library Trustees will recess into closed session to conduct a public employee performance evaluation.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

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.



Wheelchair accessible. To request a sign language interpreter, real-time captioning, materials in large print or Braille, or other accommodations for this event, please call (510) 981-6107 (voice) or (510) 548-1240 (TTY); at least three working days will help ensure availability.

Please refrain from wearing scented products to public programs.

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 February 10, 2011.

//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. Christopher Adams, regarding West Branch Project

Berkeley Public Library
Board of Library Trustees

III Consent, Item A

Regular Meeting
January 12, 2011

MINUTES
6:30 p.m.

South Branch
1901 Russell Street

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

*A copy of the agenda packet and a digital recording of this meeting is accessible at
http://www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org/about_the_library/bolt/bolt.php*

A. Call to Order

The Regular meeting of January 12, 2011 was called to order by Chair Kupfer at 6:35 PM.

Present: Trustees Winston Burton, Abigail Franklin, Susan Kupfer and Darryl Moore.

Absent: Carolyn Henry-Golphin.

Also present: Donna Corbeil, Director of Library Services; Douglas Smith, Deputy Director; Dennis Dang, Library Admin Manager; Suzanne Olawski, Branch Library Manager; Debbie Carton, Art & Music Librarian; Eve Franklin, Administrative Secretary.

David Snyder – Berkeley Public Library Foundation

Mary Ann Merker, Civic Arts Commission

David Smippen, Consultant

B. Public Comments

1. Gene Bernardi, SuperBOLD – Spoke regarding Nuclear Free Berkeley Act waiver and RFID system.
2. Peter Warfield – Spoke regarding Nuclear Free Berkeley Act waiver and RFID system, interim services while the branches are closed, budget priorities and monitoring RFID system
3. David Snyder – Spoke regarding implementation of new RFID system, BranchVan, fiscal responsibilities and continuing services within Measure FF budget.

C. Report from Library employees and Unions, Discussion of Staff Issues – Debbie Carton, read a statement from SEIU 1021 (Attachment #1) in favor of a new building for the West Branch.

D. Report from Board of Library Trustees

Trustee Burton spoke regarding the State of California budget cuts effect on libraries and social services and the need to be proactive. Lots of serious challenges ahead.

Trustee Franklin reported Trustees will hold a closed session to discuss Director Corbeil's performance evaluation after which she and Trustee Burton will meet with the Library Director to provide the evaluation.

E. Approval of Agenda

R11-001 Moved by Trustee Burton, seconded by Trustee Moore, to approve the agenda as presented. Trustee Henry-Golphin absent. Motion passed unanimously.

II. CONSENT CALENDAR

R11-002 Moved by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee Franklin, to approve Consent Calendar as presented. Trustee Henry-Golphin absent. Motion passed unanimously.

A. Approve minutes of December 8, 2010 Regular Meeting

R11-003 Moved by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee Franklin, to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2010 regular meeting of the Board of Library Trustees as presented. Trustee Henry-Golphin absent. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Resolution of Gratitude to Kathy E. Souza

R11-004 Moved by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee Franklin, to approve the resolution expressing gratitude to Kathy E. Souza, who served as library assistant and library specialist for the Berkeley Public Library from March 1987 to December 2010. Trustee Henry-Golphin absent. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Closure of the Tool Lending Library for Annual Tool Maintenance From February 13 Through February 20, 2011

R11-005 Moved by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee Franklin, to adopt a resolution authorizing the closure of the Tool Lending Library from February 13 through February 20, 2011 and reopening on February 22, 2011. Trustee Henry-Golphin absent. Motion passed unanimously.

III. ACTION CALENDAR

A. Authorization to Accept Recommendation of Selection Panel and Execute Contract for Measure FF Funded Public Art for Claremont and North Branch Libraries

David Snippen, Consultant provided an update of the process and showed renderings and samples of artwork from the finalists. (Attachment #2) Selection panel made up of: two members of the Board of Library Trustees, two members of the Landmark Preservation Commission, two members of the Civic Arts Commission, three neighborhood reps, and two library staff. The selection panel invited artists and curators (42 contacts) to participate. Sixteen proposals were received. Selection panel narrowed the field down to six semi-finalists who made sample pieces. Sample art was displayed at Claremont and North Branches. 52 comments were left at North, 3 at Claremont. Comments were distributed to the selection panel. The semi-finalists were interviewed and two were chosen as finalists. Both are local (East Bay) artists. The proposed art for Claremont is a metal "Book Shelves" guard rail on the ramp by Eric Powell. The proposed art for North is a quilt of trees in copper and stainless steel surrounding the public information slat wall in the hallway connecting the new and old buildings done by Marion Coleman. Both projects will offer graffiti protection.

R11_006 Moved by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee Franklin, to adopt a resolution authorizing the Library director to execute a contract with Eric Powell for the Claremont Branch public art project and with Marion Coleman for the North Branch public art project, in an amount not to exceed \$29,000 and \$38,000 respectively, for the period January 26, 2011 through July 30, 2012. Trustee Henry-Golphin absent. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Board of Library Trustee Budget Update and Establishing Priorities for FY 2011 & 2012

R11-007 Moved by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee Franklin, to adopt a resolution approving priorities for the fiscal year 2011 and 2012 Library budget development. Trustee Henry-Golphin absent. Motion passed unanimously.

Budget Priorities

- Confirm stability of operating budget and plan for future operational needs -- including establishing / maintaining a balanced budget.
- Monitor and manage bond funds (Measure FF)
- Maximize effectiveness of services
- Pursue establishment of a reserve fund

Chair Kupfer – What is the amount of State of California budget cuts affecting BPL? \$160,000.

Director Corbeil reported that every single program funded by the state has been eliminated except the California State Library, including: Public Library Foundation, Transaction Based Reimbursement, and the California Library Literacy. Our challenge will be to see what the impact will be on our programs and how we can mitigate it. The CLA has information about the budget cuts on their website and there will be a state-wide movement to try to reverse the cuts.

IV. INFORMATION REPORTS

- A. Update on the Branch Bond Program** – Anticipate it will take three weeks to close up and move out of the branches after the contracts are signed. Going to January 18th City Council for approval to go out to bid for Claremont and North.
- B. Recruitment Process to Fill Vacancy on Board of Library Trustees Created by Trustee Kupfer’s Term End Effective May 13, 2011** There will be an Open House on February 1. Trustee Moore recommended inviting former BOLT Trustees. Trustee Franklin recommended inviting the Berkeley Public Library Foundation and Friends of the Library.
- C. January 2011 Monthly Report from Library Director**
4X2 Agenda – Trustees Franklin and Moore to attend, Trustee Burton will attend if Trustee Moore can’t. Author’s Dinner will be held on February 12.
- D. Library events:** Calendar of events and press releases for various Library programs are posted at <http://www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org>

I. AGENDA BUILDING

- A.** The next meeting will be a Regular Meeting held at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, February 9, 2011 at the South Branch Library, 1901 Russell Street, Berkeley.
1. Possible agenda topics:
 - Directors Performance Review in Closed Session
 - Mid-Year Budget report
 - Budget Workshop – March 9

II. ADJOURNMENT

- R11-008 Moved by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee Kupfer, to adjourn the regular meeting of the board at 7:35 PM.** Trustee Henry-Golphin absent. Motion passed unanimously.

SEIU Statement regarding West Branch Library

SEIU 1021 wishes to support the Berkeley Public Library's efforts to proceed with the construction of a new West Branch library.

It is our responsibility to make sure our workers are housed in safe environments. As with the South Branch library, the current West Branch building is simply not safe for employees or the public. The Facilities Master Plan of 2008 clearly states that:

"There is structural work necessary under the building due to damage from pests and water, and the remaining areas of original wood windows and trim are badly damaged."

"At the time of the addition the original building was not reinforced to resist earthquake forces nor was it tied into the addition. In addition there is considerable evidence of rot and decay in the cripple studs which compromises the vertical and lateral resistance of the building."

Until a new West Branch library exists, both employees and the public are working in and using an unsafe building. The current lawsuit has the potential to seriously postpone the project, putting all who enter it at risk.

The existing West Branch building has serious ADA noncompliance issues. The public restrooms do not comply with ADA regulations, and the story pit in the children's area makes 60% of the picture book collection inaccessible. West Branch cannot hire a staff member who needs a wheelchair, as the staff entrance, staff bathrooms, and the story pit are all inaccessible.

Although West Branch staff has managed to work creatively with the limited space they have, it is still not enough for present needs.

- West Branch is home to the award-winning Literacy program. This ground-breaking program has served as a model for many other libraries in establishing their own literacy programs, and it is at present squeezed into a space carved out from the library's meeting room. This space is not sufficient for Literacy's needs, and takes away from the branch's already limited space.
- More public access computers are needed, but there is no space to put them.
- The staff work space is not ergonomically sound, and one staff office lacks any ventilation.

It has been suggested that the library go back to the 1923 original building, which was a beautiful design. The original 1923 building was essentially replaced during the 1974 renovation. When the library looked into restoring the 1923 original, we learned that to do so we would have to redo the whole foundation. This means picking up the building, moving it back from the street, excavating from below, and moving the building forward again. This is not only extremely expensive, but the old building may not be able to stand the strain of being moved twice. To spend such a large portion of the funds allotted for this project is irresponsible. Those public funds are better put to use by creating a user-friendly building to support and build on the many services the library currently offers, with an eye to future needs of the community.

III Consent, Item A
Attachment 1

The present building is invisible even to community members. Many patrons have said, "I've lived in this neighborhood for 10 years and never knew there was a library here." West Branch's location is in many ways ideal: on a major thoroughfare, surrounded by active businesses, and with easier parking than at many other library locations. What the library needs is a visible presence in the community, a building that is attractive, inviting and noticeable.

A new building will solve all of these problems, and there should be no delay in that process.

The longer the project is postponed, the more it will cost, causing the branch to lose some of the services and equipment currently in the plans.

Debbie Carton, Art & Music Librarian and SEIU 1021 Steward

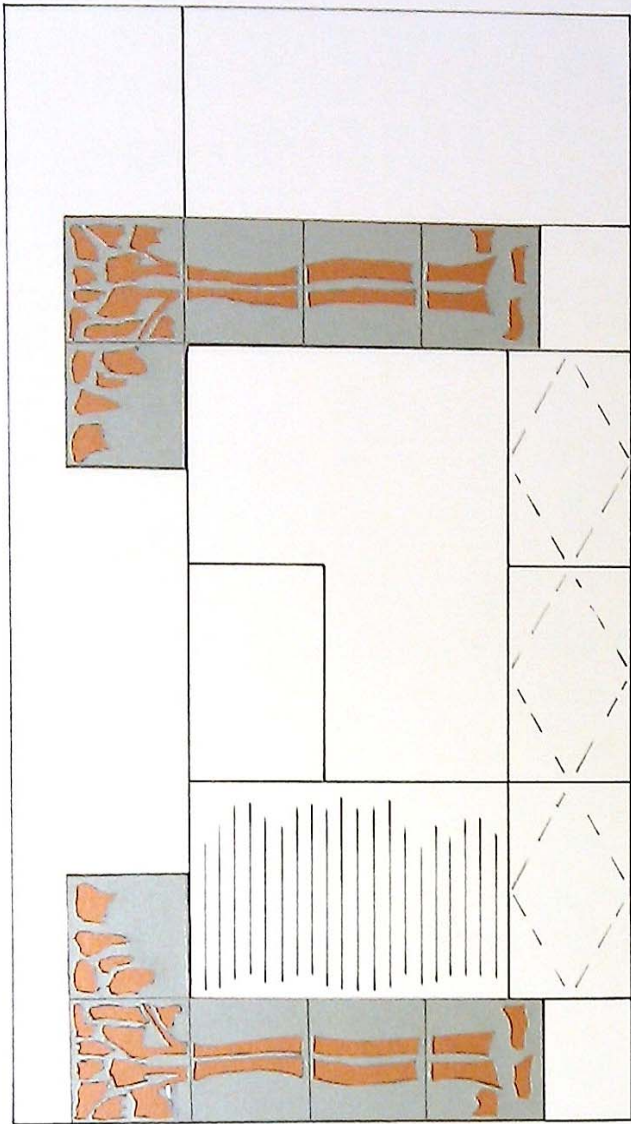
Berkeley Public Library North Branch Public Art Proposal Marion Coleman

A Patchwork of Trees is a segmented three part art installation of reverse approach metal quilts. The quilts designs will portray patchwork quilts using three months. Two of the quilts represent "Information Trees" and will mirror each other on each side of the Salt Wall display for public information brochures that will be located at Hall 114 North. The third "Transformation Tree" will be next to the entrance in Hall 114 West.

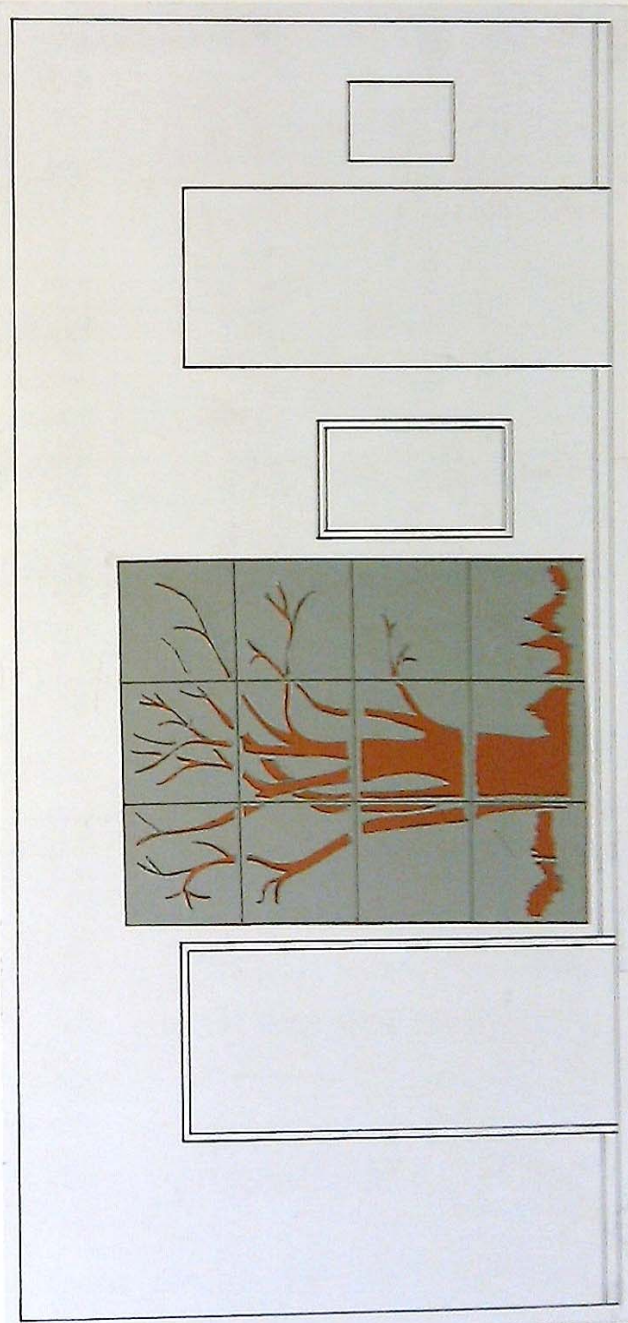
A Patchwork of Trees quilts will be designed and fabricated using copper as the primary color of the quilt. The top layer will be stainless steel. The top designs will be laser cut. This is a building technique where metal will be used like fabric. The quilts will be joined together to enhance building. In creating sculpture at each level of the quilt, the "Information Trees" will be 24" H at the base x 36" x 48" W at the top. The "Transformation Tree" will be 24" H at the base x 36" x 48" W at the top. The "Information Trees" will be 24" H x 96" W.

The theme of trees is used to reflect the green nature of the North Berkeley community as well as paying tribute to the California Arts and Crafts movement where nature was used for inspiration. Artists know in the movement that painted trees and plants using metal and sculpture. Additionally, the tree has symbolic connections with being and being and being and being and being and being. Lastly the quilts will contribute to a library connection with quilts and quilts.

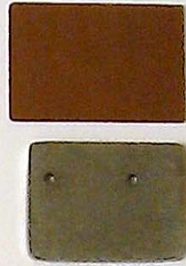
The quilts themselves will be durable, touchable and visible from several viewpoints on the main level of the library. The nature theme is timeless and should be enjoyable through the years.



HALL 114 NORTH SCALE: 1" = 1.0'



HALL 114 WEST SCALE: 1" = 1.0'



SAMPLES:
24 OZ. COPPER SHEET
11 GA. 304 STAINLESS STEEL

Bookshelves

An Artistic Railing by Eric Powell, Artist

Claremont Library, Berkeley, CA

December 18, 2010



Bookshelves is an artistic railing specifically designed for the entrance to the (soon to be) newly renovated Claremont Branch Library.

Bookshelves is a rendering of the repository of books that exists in all libraries and in virtually every home and place of work. Bookshelves are where we store and keep always visible the fruits of our book collecting.

Shelves of books are concentrated storehouses of human expression. Even within a small space a bookshelf can contain a vast range of writing that expresses the depth and breadth of human experience.

Bookshelves is a railing that serves the very important purpose of creating a safe passage to visitors to the library. It shows in a clear and graphic way, that the building is a library. Included on the shelves are other objects such as a globe, two busts representing writers (a woman and a man), statues of an animals, etc. These are iconic images that are found traditionally on bookshelves. I am open to other ideas for other objects as well.

Bookshelves serves as a timeless and long lasting artwork for the newly renovated Claremont Library.



Recently completed project for the City of Stockton



BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

CONSENT CALENDAR

February 16, 2011

TO: Board of Library Trustees

FROM: Donna Corbeil, Director of Library Services

SUBJECT: ACCEPT AND APPROPRIATE BALIS GRANTS, AND GIFT FUNDS FOR FY 2011.

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a resolution authorizing the Director of Library Services to accept and appropriate to FY 2011 two grant awards from BALIS, and gift funding received by or committed to the Berkeley Public Library.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Type	Source	Amount	Program
Gift	BPL Foundation	\$100,000	Measure FF: FF&E Capital Campaign
Gift	BPL Foundation (pass-thru)	\$2,500	Berkeley READS: Raymond Family Foundation
Gift	BPL Foundation (pass-thru)	\$1,375	Art+Music: Lashof Family
Gift	BPL Foundation (pass-thru)	\$250	Berkeley READS: West Marine
Gift	United Way	\$461.11	Berkeley READS
Grant	BALIS	\$20,000	Widening accessibility at the library with an iPad
Grant	BALIS	\$3,000	Teens: Short films on branch library renovation projects

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Library programs such as Berkeley READS and special projects are oftentimes substantially funded, if not wholly funded, by grants and gifts. The Library, as part of its mission to engage the community in its services actively seeks and welcomes government and private funding support for its myriad of services, especially in this period of economic stress. Additionally, grant and gift funding allows the Library to implement innovative programs, such as the BALIS grant to fund the purchase and employment of new technology in the library with the aim to broaden and enhance accessibility and service delivery to patrons with difficulties physically, economically, or otherwise. Utilizing iPad devices the Library will explore using handheld touchscreen technology to further connect with and expose to difficult to reach segments of the patron population the extended range of resources offered by the Library.

A second BALIS grant focusing on teens will send out teams of high school students to create short film narratives documenting the renovation of the neighborhood branch libraries. The project's objectives are to use the students' films to inform and educate the public about the neighborhood branch libraries renovation project, and to make relevant to teens the important role that civic institutions – particularly the library – have in impacting the quality of their lives.



The Berkeley Library Foundation has committed to awarding \$100,000 of Measure FF Capital Campaign raised funds for probable use this fiscal year. The Foundation served as a pass-through party for two generous donations totaling \$2,750 from the Raymond Family Foundation and from West Marine to Berkeley READS, the Library's adult literacy improvement program. And, the Foundation served as the intermediary for funds given by the Lashof Family to Art and Music for the binding of musical scores they graciously donated to the Library.

BACKGROUND

During the fiscal year the Library receives grants and gifts as either non-restricted, for needs as determined by the Library; or restricted whereby the donor specifies a program or purpose. In general, received grants are restricted and targeted to an identified program or purpose. Gift funds vary, but typically, larger sized gifts most always specify a designated use, while smaller contributions tend to fall in the non-restricted category. Nonetheless, in order for the Library to access these funds the board 1) authorizes acceptance of these monies, and 2) approves the appropriation of these monies to the budget before any portion thereof can be expended.

RATIONAL FOR RECOMMENDATION

By accepting and appropriating the funds received the Library will be able to honor the intent and wishes of the grantor/donor and fulfill identified community needs.

Attachments

1. Resolution



**BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES**

Attachment 1

RESOLUTION NO.: R11-__

**AUTHORIZING THE LIBRARY SERVICES DIRECTOR TO ACCEPT AND APPROPRIATE
BALIS GRANTS, AND GIFT FUNDS FOR FY 2011.**

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Public Library actively seeks and welcomes government and private funding support for its myriad of services; and

WHEREAS, the Bay Area Library and Information System (BALIS) has awarded to the Berkeley Public Library a grant of \$20,000 to fund the use of iPads to augment accessibility and transparency, and a second grant of \$3,000 to fund short film production by teens documenting the branch libraries renovation program; and

WHEREAS, gift donations either received or committed total \$104,586.11; and

WHEREAS, for the Library to access these funds the board 1) authorizes acceptance of these monies, and 2) approves the appropriation of these monies to the budget before any portion thereof can be expended; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Library Trustees of the City of Berkeley hereby authorizes the Director of Library Services to accept and appropriate to FY 2011 two grant awards from BALIS, and gift funding received by or committed to the Berkeley Public Library totaling \$127,586.11.

ADOPTED by the Board of Library Trustees of the City of Berkeley at a regular meeting held on February 16, 2011 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTENTIONS:

Susan Kupfer, Chairperson

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



BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

INFORMATION CALENDAR

February 16, 2011

TO: Board of Library Trustees
FROM: Dennis Dang, Library Administrative Manager
SUBJECT: Library Budget Update

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to summarize mid-year FY2011.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact from this report.

BACKGROUND

Fiscal year 2011 mid-year expenses for all Library Fund groups totaled \$11,498,450. Of this amount, expenses including encumbrances related to library operations and programs constituted 68% or \$7,842,152 of the total -- the balance made up by Measure FF: Branch Libraries Improvement Program (BLIP) allocated expenses and encumbrances of \$3,656,298, a 32% share.

Excluding the Measure FF program, actual labor expenses at \$5,620,362 was favorable to budget for the period by 3.5% and is primarily due to position vacancy savings. In consideration of non-labor expenses, during this period the Library moved markedly ahead to advance to the next stage of fully achieving one of its existing priorities, namely that of research and report on evolving self-check technologies; consequently, expenses rose as the board by Resolution No. R10-077 approved a directed long-term investment through the purchase of a new self-check, automated materials handling and materials security system in response to the Library's mission to provide delivery of high quality library services. The eventual determination and inclusion of the value of this investment unfavorably impacted the budget at the mid-year mark by \$422,966 on \$2,221,790 of expenses, exceeding the budget by 24%; and up 174% year-over due to \$231,575 of self-check system replacement encumbrances for FY11 start-up purchases of hardware, software, supplies and services. Otherwise, the bulk of year-to-date encumbrances of \$953,452 are primarily related to utilities, telephone, facility maintenance, landscaping and security guard services.

Revenue for the period of \$7,633,164 – excluding Measure FF programs – exceeded budget primarily due to \$391,868 in favorable Library Tax receipts likely a result of timing.

In regards to other revenue sources, the Direct Loan/Inter-library Loan Program experienced a moderate year-over-year decline of \$2,331 to \$25,713, this despite a substantial increase over the prior year's



imbalance unit count, calculated as loans less borrowings which determines the payout. The year-to-date imbalance increased to 28,744 units from last year at 14,205 units; however, the program's funding withhold rate was increased to 85% in FY11, from 80% in FY10, and 66% in FY09; as well, this year's receipts were impacted by the 85% and 80% withhold rates while last year during the same period all receipts were impacted by the 66% withhold rate. This year Literacy is the only Library program participating in the California State Library's CA Library Literacy Services (CLLS) and all funds have been received at \$46,808; for the Public Library Fund (PLF) the Library is eligible to receive \$36,156, a modest decrease from last year's award of \$37,961. PLF funds are typically released by the state in the second half of the fiscal year.

Measure FF BLIP labor expenses consisting of the City's assigned program representative moved upward as expected for the period as both the North and Claremont projects geared up to go out to bid for construction. Labor ended the period at \$12,447 a change of \$9,807 or 371% from last year. Non-labor costs through December 31 totaled \$5,865,641 of which \$2,290,229 was attributable to encumbrances encompassing mostly professional services. Major period non-labor actual expenditures were for architectural, information technology, and project management services.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

During this period in tandem with the City, the Library kicked off its biennial budget process for fiscal years 2012 and 2013. An initial staff workshop was held on November 19, 2010 encompassing Library financials, the budgeting process and timeline, and staff feedback. The workshop, well attended, offered staff the opportunity to express their interest in contributing ideas and suggestions to bridging the Library's structural deficit. The following month on the heels of the workshop, an informational report was presented to BOLT at their December 8th session of which topics covered included establishing biennial budget priorities, and the implementation of activities to date in regards to the Library's expressed strategic goals and initiatives. During follow-up discussion BOLT reviewed the existing priorities established for fiscal years 2010 and 2011, and committed to issuing priorities for the coming two year period – this was accomplished at the January 12, 2011 regular BOLT meeting.

In January, the Library submitted to the City its FY 2011 Mid-Year Budget Projection for this annual update exercise. Per the projection the Library did not anticipate an overall material change to expected revenues. The Library Tax Fund was projected to come in at the Adjusted Budget amount; and per a mid-December exercise projecting fiscal years 2012 and 2013 library tax revenue, FY11 tax revenue was estimated to range upwards of \$203,729 above the amount incorporated in the mid-year projection. Other revenue sources were projected to experience shortfalls from the Adjusted Budget as all California State Library supported funds are either trending lower in receipts (the Direct Loan/Inter-library Loan Fund), have been fully received (the CA Library Literacy Services), or have acknowledged a lower commitment than forecasted (the Public Library Fund). Lower receipt estimation on the Gift Fund was due to last fiscal year's unspent Friends of the Library contributions being deducted from their FY11 gift amount.

Mid-year expenditure projections forecasted favorable variances in the Direct Loan/Inter-library Loan Fund and the Grants Fund – of which includes CA Library Literacy Services receipts. Both Funds' expenditure savings are temporary and due in large part to allowable cost transfers effected to relieve the Funds' balances. Per the exercise, the Gift Fund is expected to end the year with the most sizable



balance estimated at \$131,075 due to a scaled back implementation of the Central Library's space planning project.

The Measure FF Fund is expected to see rather significant changes in next year's mid-year budget projection exercise as both the North and Claremont branch libraries are poised for bidding in early 2011 and to have broken ground before year end.

FUTURE ACTION

The Library is in the process of developing its biennial budget for fiscal years 2012 and 2013. In so doing, the Library adheres to its commitment to working with the board, and collaboratively with staff, in exploring and implementing appropriate cost reduction measures to address the gap between revenues and expenditures.

At this time, the Library anticipates to conduct a board workshop session on March 9 dedicated to budget development, present a draft biennial budget in April, and to seek board approval and recommendation to City Council of a final budget at the May 11th board session along with approval of the FY12 library tax rate.

Attachments:

- 1 – Expenditure Summary for All Funds: FY11 – End Q2
- 2 – Library Tax Fund: 5-Year Fund Analysis
- 3 – Gift Fund: 5-Year Fund Analysis
- 4 – All Other Funds: 5-Year Fund Analysis
- 5 – Measure FF Fund: 5-Year Fund Analysis

IV Information, Item A
Attachment 1

60-20	Outside Janitorial Svcs	180,000	215,631	215,630					215,630	100.0%	
	Purchased Property Services	180,000	215,631	215,630					215,630	100.0%	
65-70	Building	9,630,895	7,030,618					131,046	131,046	1.9%	
65-80	Other Infrastructure	135,908	148,471				12,562		12,562	8.5%	
	Infrastructure	9,766,803	7,179,089				12,562		131,046	143,608	2.0%
68-12	Underwriting Disc/ Insur. Prem							175,100	175,100		
	Financing Cost							175,100	175,100		
70-41	Machinery and Equipment	8,450	138,655	131,564					131,564	94.9%	
70-42	Vehicles		87,790					86,852	86,852	98.9%	
70-43	Furniture and Fixtures	56,000	35,540	1,384					1,384	3.9%	
70-44	Computers & Printers	50,000	50,000								
70-47	Computer Softwares & Lic	5,000	5,000	3,575					3,575	71.5%	
	Property	119,450	316,985	136,523				86,852	223,375	70.5%	
71-10	Small Equipment	21,000	27,460	7,929					7,929	28.9%	
71-43	Mach & Equip: Furniture And Fixtures	60,000	86,194	1,560		30,971			32,531	37.7%	
71-44	Mach & Equip: Computers And Printers	10,000	10,000	8,162					8,162	81.6%	
71-47	Mach & Equip: Software & Licenses	15,000	20,226	8,881					8,881	43.9%	
	Property Under Cap Limit	106,000	143,880	26,532		30,971			57,503	40.0%	
75-35	Mail Services	1,661	1,661	828					828	49.8%	
75-50	City Vehicles/Fuel & Main	4,000	4,000	1,331					1,331	33.3%	
75-60	City Parking Permits	480	1,000								
75-90	Internal City Training	500	500								
	Internal Services	6,641	7,161	2,159					2,159	30.1%	
82-30	Debt Svc - Issuance Costs	2,400	2,400					135,107	135,107	5629.5%	
	Debt Service	2,400	2,400					135,107	135,107	5629.5%	
99-01	Appropriations Ord #1		(317,256)								
99-11	Appropriations Ord #1 Offset Acct		317,256								
	Balance Sheet Accounts										
	Other Expenses	13,541,644	14,640,466	2,069,274	24,018	441	128,057	17,155	3,626,696	5,865,641	40.1%
	Berkeley Public Library System (w/CoB)	25,228,534	26,339,892	7,642,877	24,018	20,360	154,897	17,155	3,639,143	11,498,450	43.7%

BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY LIBRARY TAX FUND (301): 5-YEAR FUND ANALYSIS

	FY 2010 FINAL	FY 2011 ADOPTED	FY 2011 REVISED	FY 2011 PROJECTED	FY 2012 PROJECTED	FY 2013 PROJECTED	FY 2014 PROJECTED
Beginning Fund Balance	\$ 1,102,151	\$ 1,461,883	\$ 1,461,883	\$ 1,461,883	\$ 986,554	\$ 217,525	\$ (597,010)
Revenues							
Library Services Tax	\$ 13,844,489	\$ 13,904,789	\$ 13,904,789	\$ 13,904,789	\$ 14,291,070	\$ 14,505,436	\$ 14,941,672
Fines/Fees	293,254	252,000	300,000	300,000	252,000	252,000	300,000
Donations/Private Contributions							
Misc. Revenue / Interest / Refunds	14,532	10,500	10,500	10,500	10,500	10,500	10,500
TOTAL REVENUE:	\$ 14,152,275	\$ 14,167,289	\$ 14,215,289	\$ 14,215,289	\$ 14,553,570	\$ 14,767,936	\$ 15,252,172
Expenditures							
Operations							
Salaries, Wages, Benefits	\$ 11,645,544	\$ 11,649,948	\$ 11,649,948	\$ 11,649,948	\$ 12,667,695	\$ 12,927,149	\$ 12,927,149
Salaries, Wages, Benefits							
less: Labor Vacancy Savings		116,499	116,499	116,499	116,499	116,499	129,271
Personnel	\$ 11,645,544	\$ 11,533,449	\$ 11,533,449	\$ 11,533,449	\$ 12,551,196	\$ 12,810,650	\$ 12,797,878
Non-Personnel	458,709	598,990	950,763	950,763	598,990	598,890	598,890
Library Materials (incl Tool Lndng)	823,068	900,000	900,000	900,000	900,000	900,000	900,000
Misc. Professional Services	198,063	290,850	346,042	346,042	290,850	290,850	290,850
Utilities+Telephone	378,346	412,262	412,262	412,262	412,262	412,362	412,362
Janitorial	167,428	180,000	215,631	215,631	180,000	180,000	180,000
Software Maintenance	54,045	234,304	243,255	243,255	234,304	234,304	234,304
RFID Loan Repayment							
Computer & Software Purchase	31,013	55,000	55,000	55,000	55,000	55,000	55,000
CIP (Building)	12,539	75,000	15,000	15,000	75,000	75,000	75,000
Subtotal:	\$ 13,768,755	\$ 14,279,855	\$ 14,671,402	\$ 14,671,402	\$ 15,297,602	\$ 15,557,056	\$ 15,544,284
Charges From Other Depts							
Finance - Billing (3601)	\$ 12,685	\$ 11,267	\$ 11,267	\$ 7,912	\$ 12,849	\$ 13,118	\$ 13,118
Facilities - Admn (5401) +Txcs (5403)	11,103	11,512	11,574	11,304	12,148	12,297	12,297
Interfund Transfers							
Subtotal:	\$ 23,788	\$ 22,779	\$ 22,841	\$ 19,216	\$ 24,997	\$ 25,415	\$ 25,415
TOTAL EXPENDITURES:	\$ 13,792,543	\$ 14,302,634	\$ 14,694,243	\$ 14,690,618	\$ 15,322,599	\$ 15,582,471	\$ 15,569,699
Projected Surplus/(Shortfall) {Rev - Exp}	\$ 359,732	\$ (135,345)	\$ (478,954)	\$ (475,329)	\$ (769,029)	\$ (814,535)	\$ (317,526)
GROSS FUND BALANCE {Bal + Rev - Exp}	\$ 1,461,883	\$ 1,326,538	\$ 982,929	\$ 986,554	\$ 217,525	\$ (597,010)	\$ (914,536)

BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY GIFTS FUND (306): 5-YEAR FUND ANALYSIS

	FY 2010 FINAL	FY 2011 ADOPTED	FY 2011 REVISED	FY 2011 PROJECTED	FY 2012 PROJECTED	FY 2013 PROJECTED	FY 2014 PROJECTED
Beginning Fund Balance	\$ 875,064	\$ 810,955	\$ 810,955	\$ 810,955	\$ 592,843	\$ 279,334	\$ (34,255)
Revenues							
Friends of BPL	\$ 92,151	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 57,807	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000
BPL Foundation							
Donations/Private	7,028			6,415			
Interest/Misc. Revenues	1,360			700			
TOTAL REVENUE:	\$ 100,539	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 64,922	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000
Expenditures							
Operations							
Personnel	\$ 16,374	\$ 27,252	\$ 37,419	\$ 37,419	\$ 16,514	\$ 16,594	\$ 16,594
Non-Personnel	25,501	269,454	206,808	160,615	269,454	269,454	269,454
Professional Services	62,732	42,491	96,002	60,000	42,491	42,491	42,491
Library Materials	59,146	60,050	67,300	25,000	60,050	60,050	60,050
Computer Hardware/Software							
CIP (Infrastructure)			6,580				
Subtotal:	\$ 164,648	\$ 399,247	\$ 414,109	\$ 283,034	\$ 388,509	\$ 388,589	\$ 388,589
TOTAL EXPENDITURES:	\$ 164,648	\$ 399,247	\$ 414,109	\$ 283,034	\$ 388,509	\$ 388,589	\$ 388,589
Projected Surplus / (Deficit) (Rev - Exp)	\$ (64,109)	\$ (324,247)	\$ (339,109)	\$ (218,112)	\$ (313,509)	\$ (313,589)	\$ (313,589)
GROSS FUND BALANCE (Bal + Rev - Exp)	\$ 810,955	\$ 486,708	\$ 471,846	\$ 592,843	\$ 279,334	\$ (34,255)	\$ (347,844)

BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY OTHER FUNDS (302, 304, 305): 5-YEAR FUND ANALYSIS

	FY 2010 FINAL	FY 2011 ADOPTED	FY 2011 REVISED	FY 2011 PROJECTED	FY 2012 PROJECTED	FY 2013 PROJECTED	FY 2014 PROJECTED
Beginning Fund Balance	\$ 176,758	\$ 147,734	\$ 147,734	\$ 147,734	\$ 196,334	\$ 225,288	\$ 253,968
Direct Loan Fund (302)	188,853	142,696	142,696	142,696			
Grants Fund (304)	(1,655)	(16,693)	(16,693)	(16,693)			
Public Library Fund (305)	(10,440)	21,731	21,731	21,731			
Revenues							
Direct Loan Fund	\$ 105,973	\$ 70,000	\$ 70,000	\$ 70,000	\$ 70,000	\$ 70,000	\$ 70,000
Literacy Services* & LSTA	49,632	50,000	50,000	57,461	50,000	50,000	50,000
Miscellaneous Grant Revenue	3,750			23,000			
Public Library Fund (SB 358)	37,961	40,000	40,000	36,156	40,000	40,000	40,000
Other	18,105	20,000	20,000	20,000			
TOTAL REVENUE:	\$ 215,421	\$ 180,000	\$ 180,000	\$ 206,617	\$ 160,000	\$ 160,000	\$ 160,000
Expenditures							
Operations							
Personnel	\$ 61,051	\$ 53,705	\$ 56,074	\$ 56,074	\$ 55,046	\$ 55,320	\$ 55,873
Non-Personnel	183,394	76,000	78,943	101,943	76,000	76,000	76,000
Library Materials							
TOTAL EXPENDITURES:	\$ 244,445	\$ 129,705	\$ 135,017	\$ 158,017	\$ 131,046	\$ 131,320	\$ 131,873
Projected Surplus/Shortfall (Rev - Exp)	\$ (29,024)	\$ 50,295	\$ 44,983	\$ 48,600	\$ 28,954	\$ 28,680	\$ 28,127
GROSS FUND BALANCE (Bal + Rev - Exp)	\$ 147,734	\$ 198,029	\$ 192,717	\$ 196,334	\$ 225,288	\$ 253,968	\$ 282,095

BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY MEASURE FF FUND (308): 5-YEAR FUND ANALYSIS

	FY 2010 FINAL	FY 2011 ADOPTED	FY 2011 REVISED	FY 2011 PROJECTED	FY 2012 PROJECTED	FY 2013 PROJECTED
Beginning Fund Balance	\$ 9,955,299	\$ 16,029,015	\$ 8,510,959	\$ 8,510,959	\$ 13,996,783	\$ 1,966,950
Revenues						
Net Bond Proceeds (net of comm)		\$ 15,943,320	\$ 15,943,320	\$ 16,428,536		
Misc./ Interest	13,641	10,000	10,000	25,000	6,000	1,500
TOTAL REVENUE:	\$ 13,641	\$ 15,953,320	\$ 15,953,320	\$ 16,453,536	\$ 6,000	\$ 1,500
Expenditures						
Operations						
Personnel	\$ 6,126	\$ 53,705	\$ 53,705	\$ 53,705	\$ 70,000	\$ 70,000
Consultants	1,324,942	333,040	3,472,571	4,000,000	150,000	150,000
Building	112,704	9,555,895	7,015,618	6,250,000	11,565,833	1,495,546
Misc./Utilities/Other	14,209	218,400	318,721	528,099	250,000	250,000
Other Infrastructure/Public Art		135,908	135,908	135,908		2,904
TOTAL EXPENDITURES:	\$ 1,457,981	\$ 10,296,948	\$ 10,996,523	\$ 10,967,712	\$ 12,035,833	\$ 1,968,450
Projected Surplus/Shortfall (Rev - Exp)	\$ (1,444,340)	\$ 5,656,372	\$ 4,956,797	\$ 5,485,824	\$ (12,029,833)	\$ (1,966,950)
GROSS FUND BALANCE (Bal + Rev - Exp)	\$ 8,510,959	\$ 21,685,387	\$ 13,467,756	\$ 13,996,783	\$ 1,966,950	\$ -



BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

INFORMATION CALENDAR

February 16, 2011

TO: Board of Library Trustees

FROM: Donna Corbeil, Director of Library Services

SUBJECT: FEBRUARY 2011 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

COMMUNICATION

Staff continues to update the Library website with FAQs, announcements of meetings etc. as needed: http://www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org/about_the_library/b-renovation.php. A display of the latest plans for that branch and the appropriate FAQ is posted for public review. Comments are being taken and suggestions received are posted. Closure guides related to the first two projects are being finalized, these will be available in paper and on the library's website.

FISCAL

The Library has secured professional moving services for the Claremont and North branch projects, executing a contract with Moovers Inc. totaling \$30,774 to cover moving out and moving back in, in concert with the construction schedule. This is within the estimated range estimated for budgeting purposes.



The Library and City have agreed to utilize city owned space for the temporary storage of materials and furnishings from the closed facilities at a cost of \$750 per month to cover expenses and minimal rent. The agreed upon amount is well below market rate; and lower than the estimated cost in the budget.

The South, West and Library ZOA CEQA process, conducted by the Planning Department, Land Use Division involved contracting for professional services. In order to complete the Draft and Final Library Environmental Impact Report (EIR) a consultant was retained. The scope, complexity and timeline for this effort has resulted in an increase to the initial estimated cost, as a result the current professional services contract with the consultant firm DC&E – Design, Community & Environment will be increased to a new estimated total of \$70,000.

OTHER CITY AGENCIES, BOARDS AND BODIES

CoB City Council

At the January 18, 2011 City Council meeting several items involving the Library bond program were on the agenda and action taken, these were:

- On the Consent calendar, the second reading to repeal Ordinance No. 7,148-N.S., concerning permit levels for public library projects.
- On the Consent calendar, the adoption of a resolution authorizing the issuance of a major encroachment permit for the North Branch Library.
- On the Action calendar, resolution to adopt a contract with the Building Trades Council and 22 labor organizations regarding the provision of labor to city construction projects. The Library bond projects are directly impacted by the adoption of this item, as it applies to construction over \$1 M.
- On the Action calendar, approval for proposals or invitations for bids, including the Claremont Library and North Library, Measure FF funded improvements.

Detailed information on the City council agenda can be found at:

<http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/ContentDisplay.aspx?id=62856> and the video of the meeting is at:
<http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/ContentDisplay.aspx?id=9868>.

Planning and Development

The draft EIR was released on December 15, 2010 by the Planning Department: *DEIR for the Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment for Public Libraries and the South and West Branch Libraries Project*. Public comment was open for 45 days, from December 14, 2010 to January 31, 2011. During the review period several public meetings were held and testimony taken:

- LPC, January 6, 2011 @ 7 PM
- ZAB, January 13, 2011 @ 7 PM
- Planning Commission, January 19, 2011 @ 7 PM

The Planning Department is responsible for conducting this process. The FEIR is the next anticipated document regarding this process.

PROJECT UPDATES

Preparation for the closure, moving out and storage of materials and furnishings of the North and Claremont branch libraries are underway. A report on the status of this process is on the BOLT agenda of February 16, 2011. Information is posted to the Library's website at



<http://berkeleypubliclibrary.org/branchimprovements>. The two branches will be holding closing events to mark the beginning of the construction phase, i.e. ground breaking. **The North Branch event will take place on Saturday, March 5 from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM** and at the **Claremont Branch on Saturday, March 19 from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM**. We look forward to celebrating with the community this momentous occasion.

North Branch

Following council approval, an *Invitation to Bid* advertisement was placed in the January 21, 2011 Berkeley Voice newspaper. Information on the bid process is available on the City of Berkeley website under *Current Bid and Proposal Opportunities*:

<http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/ContentDisplay.aspx?id=7128&portalID=20>. Per the announcement, bid opening is scheduled for February 15 and approvals are expected to conclude by early April, with a notice to proceed to the selected firm. The Library anticipates closing approximately three weeks before this time to pack and move out. The specific public closure date will be set later in the process to minimize the length of closure. The project will take approximately 10-12 months for construction, with a period at the beginning and end for move in and set-up, at this time we calculate this will take place in April or May 2012.

On February 3, 2011, Council member Capitelli held a meeting at the North Branch Library with the residents of the immediate vicinity to discuss traffic issues. The Library was invited to join the meeting and was added to the agenda. The branch closure timeline and the draft traffic plan for the construction period discussed.

Claremont Branch

Following Council approval, an *Invitation to Bid* advertisement was placed in the January 21, 2011 Berkeley Voice newspaper. Information on the bid process is available on the City of Berkeley website *Current Bid and Proposal Opportunities*:

<http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/ContentDisplay.aspx?id=7128&portalID=20>. Per the announcement, bid opening is scheduled for February 22 and approvals are expected to conclude by mid-April, with a notice to proceed to the selected firm. The Library anticipates closing approximately three weeks before this time to pack and move out. The specific public closure date will be set later in the process to minimize the length of closure. The project will take approximately 9-10 months for construction, with a period at the beginning and end for move in and set-up, at this time we calculate this will take place in January or February 2012.

Other

The West Branch and South Branch projects are undergoing a CEQA process, the Draft EIR was open for comments and this review period is now closed. Updates will be posted to the Library webpage as the Planning Division makes them available; the Final EIR is expected to be released in April or May.

The Library Foundation recently launched, The Neighborhood Libraries Campaign to raise \$3.5 million to assist with the Branch Library improvement program. The Foundation's campaign is moving forward, they are pleased with the progress to date and will be coordinating efforts with the Library as the construction schedule is settled in order to assure funds are available when needed for furniture, equipment and other needs not covered by the bond funds. More information on the campaign is available online: www.bplf.org.



BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

INFORMATION CALENDAR

February 16, 2011

TO: Board of Library Trustees
FROM: Donna Corbeil, Director of Library Services
SUBJECT: FEBRUARY 2011 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

Several staff attended the American Library Association mid-winter conference this year. Staff report attached (Attachment 1).

PROGRAMS, SERVICES AND COLLECTIONS

Collections

Electronic books continue to be in the news, with the release of the new eBooks portal by Google:

<http://www.marketwatch.com/story/google-throws-down-gauntlet-with-ebooks-2010-12-06>.

Additionally, an article in the NYT's recently (2.4.11), available online at:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/05/books/05ebooks.html>, E-Readers Catch Younger Eyes and Go in Backpacks. The article by Julie Bosman, summarizes the change well, "In their infancy e-readers were adopted by an older generation that valued the devices for their convenience, portability and, in many cases, simply for their ability to enlarge text to a more legible size. Appetite for e-book editions of best sellers and adult genre fiction – romance, mysteries, thrillers – has seemed almost bottomless. But, now that ereaders are cheaper and more plentiful, they have gone mass market, reaching consumers across age and demographic groups, and enticing some members of the younger generation to pick them up for the first time."

Berkeley Public Library has material in electronic format, as do many other libraries throughout the country. Right now the library does not have any eBooks to download to Kindle, iPad, Nook, etc.

We do have eBooks which are readable through our homepage, in electronic format. These are found under the header – Search Online Resources - under the subject “*Audiobooks and eBooks*”. Or if a specific title and / or author are known, you can search our catalog by title or author.

Safari Techbooks Online

Full-text online access to computing, IT, and management titles released by leading publishers that you can read online.

MyiLibrary Audio is Ingram Digital’s new leading-edge audiobook solution for libraries. Featuring a user-friendly interface that is both PC and Mac compatible, 100% of these titles are downloadable and playable via iPod and iPhone—in addition to hundreds of MP3 devices.

There are also many other online books for reference use, in addition to many full-text articles, the former includes: *Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians*, *The International Encyclopedia of Dance*, *Encyclopedia of Associations*, *College Blue Book* (6 volumes, 34th edition), and *Grzimek’s Animal Life Encyclopedia* (17 volumes, 2nd edition). These are complete electronic copies of the paper reference books found in many libraries’ reference collections. These are not what you may think of in the current upswing in popularity of eBooks, but, they are similar to the other ebooks listed above in they can be read online through our website. While no one would probably read an entire reference book it is a great place to find a source of reliable information – online - 24/7! To connect to these online resources you will need a library card.

Programming

Library staff has planned a selection of programming for all age groups. The best place to see all of this is on the Library’s website at: <http://www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org/>. Both Library News on the left side column and Events on the right side - bottom of the page, list both regular and special events. Staff also utilizes the middle column space to highlight events and library news. The Library continues to print a paper calendar for patron pickup at all locations. The library newsletter is on hiatus pending internal discussions about how best to reach out to patrons given the popularity of social media, email and other online tools. The Friends of the Library quarterly newsletter, *Berkeley Matters*, is an excellent way to get in-depth stories and information on both Friends and Library sponsored events, projects and great stories related to the history of both. Both organizations can be found under the header: *Support the Library* from our homepage or independently at www.bplf.org for the Foundation and at <http://www.berkeleylibraryfriends.org/> for the Friends.

FACILITIES/ OPERATIONS & PERSONNEL

Operations

The staff team working on the transition to Bibliotheca is hard at work, an update is included (Attachment 2).

ATTACHMENT:

1. ALA Mid-winter meeting 2010 – Staff Reports
2. Self-Check Implementation Update
3. News From the Capital

ALA Midwinter Staff Reports:

The Midwinter Meeting in San Diego was an amazing opportunity to meet librarians from around the country and discuss hot topics in the profession. Top of the list for me (and around the conference it appears) were ebooks. I attended multiple sessions on ereading and implications for libraries. Specific concerns addressed were the intersection of ereaders and literacy, serving patrons with disabilities through ebooks and ways to educate librarians about key issues in the evolving ereading landscape. These conversations continue online in the ALA connect community and I look forward to continuing involvement in the OITP Task Force on eBooks. The other most important feature of the conference was my participation in the Emerging Leaders sessions. As a member of the 2011 class of ELs, I have been assigned to an ITTS project called "Deadlines ALA." We have been tasked with collating information about all time driven ALA topics and building an accessible, visual representation of this information. Meetings on the ground at Midwinter allowed our team to begin formulating a plan and making contacts with key staff. This work continues online and our end product will be presented at ALA annual in New Orleans. In addition I was pleased to meet vendors in the exhibit hall, got an energy boost from presentations by library leaders, and enjoyed learning about the various book awards and how they are chosen.

I have said it before but it bears repeating, I feel very fortunate to be working in an organization that supports this kind of personal and professional development.

Andrea Mullarkey, Librarian, reference Section, Central Library

I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to attend the ALA Midwinter conference, held this year in San Diego, CA from January 6-10. As a member of two committees, I was very busy with meetings for most of the conference. The committee I chaired this year was the Louis Shores award, which honors excellence in book and media reviewing. We chose *Booklist* editor Bill Ott, and I was lucky enough to be able to announce the award with Bill in the room at the awards reception. I am also a member of the Reading List Council, a committee that chooses the best adult titles in 8 fiction genres. We chose our winners, annotated them for the press release, and chose short list titles, which were also announced at the RUSA Awards Reception. Finally I attended the executive committee for CODES (the Collection Development section of ALA/RUSA). Last year I was elected to a three-year term as member-at-large for CODES. In addition to the many meetings required, I managed to visit the exhibits and talk with several vendors about services and products that BPL may wish to explore, including a new ebook vendor. It was a great conference and I appreciate being given the time to attend.

Megan McArdle, Manager for Collection Development and Technical Services

PLA Institute: Public Libraries Survive and Thrive in the 21st Century
January 7, 2011

The morning session panel consisted of John Hales, Jr., Director of Libraries, Suwannee River Regional Library; Teresa Price Landers, Library Director, Santa Cruz Public Libraries; Jane Light, Library Director, San Jose Public Library; Lisa Musgrove, County Librarian, Siskiyou County Library; and moderated by Susan Hildreth, Director, Institute of Museum and Library Services. Panelists discussed budgetary experiences and funding strategies, including advocacy, regional and state memberships / associations, ROI / statistics, public information websites and grassroots efforts. Budget experiences ranged from the complete elimination of library services to complete system reorganization; and, advocacy was stressed a key to swaying civic leaders to financially support libraries and invest in outcomes. A new way of doing business is paramount to library survival, especially during challenging economic times, and many libraries are revisiting their strategic plans and developing new service models as a result. The afternoon session with consultants Kimberly Bolan Cullin and Robert Cullin focused on gaining workplace efficiencies and public self-service models.

Suzanne Olawski, Neighborhood Services Manager

Self-Check Implementation Update
Prepared by Megan McArdle

Following the finalizing and execution of the contract, implementation discussions began. Things are moving along nicely in the implementation process. The implementation committee met in late December to discuss where to start tagging as well as other strategy issues. Conversion equipment was ordered in December, and conversion carts were put together in January as the decision was made early on that we would tag the collection in the stacks. At the same time, selectors at the main library worked hard to weed the collections that would be tagged soonest. In early January, we trained taggers and started putting together schedules for tagging staff. Actual tagging of the collection officially began January 18th. As of Friday, January 28th (after less than 2 weeks), we completed several areas of the main library and have tagging underway in many more. 48,000 items were tagged in the first 9 days. Testing has also begun on check-out with these new tags.

An FAQ for the project has been prepared, and is available at all service desks as well as on the tagging carts, in case questions come to those working in the collections.

Bond program staff has been in contact with Bibliotheca to confirm installation details on the selfcheck, security gates and AMH systems for North and Claremont, the two branches slated for early construction.

Next steps include finishing the tagging of books at the Central Library (estimated to finish books is late March), begin tagging media (in Technical Services), and plan for tagging in the branches for late March, early April. A decision has not yet been finalized about whether to tag the North and Claremont collections before they are boxed for storage. This will depend on the closure schedule and percent of completion of the Central and other branch collections, which are a priority.

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California Library Association

950 Glenn Drive, Suite 150 | Folsom, CA 95630 | Phone: 916.233.3298 | Fax: 916.932.2209 | www.cla-net.org

NEWS FROM THE CAPITOL

ASSEMBLY BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE SAYS PROPOSED CUTS TO LIBRARIES

"NEEDS MORE SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS"

Assemblymember Remarks, "These Cuts Cannot Stand."

Yesterday the Assembly Budget Subcommittee Number Two On Education Finance convened to discuss the Governor's 2011-12 Budget and the Administration's specific proposal to completely eliminate three important library programs: the California Library Services Act, the literacy program, and the Public Library Foundation. At the hearing, Subcommittee members seemed particularly troubled by the idea that the programs were slated for elimination, rather than a reduction. Subcommittee members also questioned whether enough substantive analysis had been done by the Governor's Department of Finance on the library programs, as several issues were raised relative to the impact on communities, the loss of federal funds, economic impact, and impact to service delivery.

The Subcommittee Chair, Assemblywoman Susan Bonilla started the hearing by noting, "For purposes of full disclosure, I am a former High School English teacher and I helped start the literacy program in Concord and Contra Costa County and the network." Brief comments were then offered by the State Librarian, Stacey Aldrich and the Department of Finance representative. Chairwoman Bonilla asked the DOF, "Why were these programs slated for elimination instead of reduction?" Finance responded that they were merely looking to capture a dollar amount to help balance the state Budget. The Chair countered, "But that is a huge difference. This is elimination. Zeroing it out. This puts the federal dollars at risk." She then added, "In this entire Budget process, it is very important to understand the cuts in the context of the broader economy and the health and vitality of the state of California. It would be very helpful to understand the economic impacts of eliminating [literacy] money that is being used to put people in a working environment, which leads to more income tax. This is not a contrived argument – when you can't read you earn less. It would be helpful for the DOF to look at the economic impact." The Legislative Analyst's Office testified next, stating that in a process such as this you have to decide, "which are your better and worse choices. However, we haven't seen any logic that these programs should take such disproportionate hits."

Mike Dillon then testified for CLA. He was followed by Jeff Crosby, representing the San Joaquin Valley Library System, and Jane Light, the San Jose Library Director and member of

CLA's Legislative Committee, who testified to the importance of maintaining the CLSA funding and protecting the systems and resource sharing. Laura Seaholm, representing Contra Costa's adult literacy program and member of CLA's Legislative Committee, and Faye Combs an adult literacy learner from the Berkeley Reads program, spoke in favor of protecting the literacy funding. Cindy Singer, SEIU 721 and Hacienda Heights Library Manager, and Angel Nicolas, Jr. SEIU 721 and Florence Library Manager, spoke in favor of the programs and noted the large patron usage in the "down economy." The California Council For the Blind, and several representatives from their group, spoke in favor of the protection of the federal dollars that the state receives under CLSA, as a portion of the money funds the Braille and Talking Books program at the State Library.

Assemblyman Sandre Swanson said he had recently attended the dedication of a library in his district and stated that 400 families were in attendance as "the library is providing an important resource at this time." The Assemblyman said, "Every dollar and every cut is not the same. Kids and adults and literacy will suffer...The analysis has not been done. We can't move so quickly that we destroy institutions. These cuts cannot stand."

Assemblywoman Julia Brownley said that she felt that one of the important charges of the subcommittee would be to "protect the safety net to the degree we are able. The literacy programs are for people who want to help themselves, and we are also hearing from the blind community, a productive citizenry. To remove [the funding] seems inhumane." She added that a suggestion that libraries would charge upwards of \$100 per library card if the CLSA funding and systems were decimated "is a line I don't want to cross." Assemblyman Bill Berryhill called libraries "a tremendous resource for those who can't afford resources. Even those who can afford it – the library generates excitement for reading. People become great learners and great students." The Assemblyman had a series of questions for Mike Dillon and Stacey Aldrich at the conclusion of his remarks, pertaining to the history of public library funding, the federal match for the CLSA, etc.

Chairwoman Bonilla closed out the hearing by announcing that no vote would be taken on any of the items, and rather, they would be "held open" and revisited in about another week. (Three of the caucuses are having major policy retreats over the next two days and the Capitol is fairly quiet this week.) She added, "You know, 'one library with 1,000 doors' is a remark that has been made by the library community to me. I am encouraged to hear the public comment today and the comments by committee members. It is incumbent on us to have a balanced approach. We can't avoid negative impacts [in this year's Budget]. But can we avoid devastation?...Yes."

ACTION REQUESTED

Assemblyman Sandre Swanson remarked that he had received 100 letters from constituents on the library funding issues. If you have not made the call, mailed the letter, or sent the fax to the members of the Budget Subcommittee, the legislative Leadership and the Budget Chairs and Vice Chairs yet, please do so today. You can find the contact information you need to get started at www.cla-net.org. Located at the bottom of the box on the right hand side of the Advocacy/Legislation page, you will find the PDF "Key Legislative 2011 Budget Contacts" for your use. If you have any trouble with the documents located in the box, please contact Kevin Kilkenny, CLA Legislative Assistant, at kevink@cla-net.org.



BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

INFORMATION CALENDAR

February 16, 2011

TO: Board of Library Trustees
FROM: Douglas Smith, Deputy Director of Library Services
SUBJECT: CENTRAL LIBRARY PROJECT UPDATE

INTRODUCTION

The Central Library is a treasured Berkeley landmark. The community has demonstrated love for the facility through dramatically increased visitor and circulation counts, and through feedback both quantitative and qualitative collected by Library staff. This report provides an update and summary of the space planning project staff have undertaken to optimize the investment the Berkeley community has made in its downtown library.

FISCAL IMPACT

This report has no fiscal impacts.

BACKGROUND

Since reopening in early 2002 the Berkeley Public Library's Central Library has become a beloved downtown destination, heavily used by patrons numbering in the hundreds of thousands annually. The layout of the interior space of the Central Library until recently remained essentially unchanged from what was developed a decade ago under the pressures of a tight construction timeline and patron expectations that differed from the present day. In 2008 the Library Board of Trustees approved a Strategic Plan that establishes the foundation for the provision of Library services to the community. Strategic goals identified in the Plan propelled the need for the customer improvements and usability study of Central. This study, led by the Deputy Director and limited to floors 1 - 3, was undertaken in 2009; the Board received updates in October of that year. Funds were then appropriated to implement certain recommendations selected by staff that provide the most cost-effective solutions to the challenges presented by current and anticipated future use patterns, and which conform to the values and objectives contained within the Library's Strategic Plan.

Additionally, after the passage of Measure FF, Library surveying indicated that many neighborhood branch patrons intend to use Central while their home library is closed during the Branch Improvement Project. This anticipated increase in visitation, coupled with the extant increases exemplified by a 35% increase in circulation since 2006, indicated the need to implement changes to improve seating availability, public computer access, and better service desk and collection locations. The Board was updated on the planning for these selected activities at its regular meetings in June and July 2010.



CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

In the summer of 2010, Library staff issued an RFP for the tasks involving moving collections and reconfiguring existing shelving at Central. A contract was completed with the firm Moovers, Inc. to complete some of the collection and shelving moves below.

In addition to collection relocations and shelving changes, 34 additional seats were added, thus increasing the seating by 17% to a total of 229. Heavy use of the new chairs confirms a need expressed by patrons during the community input process.

In October and November 2010, some collections were moved so they are easier to locate.

- All of the adult non-fiction in the Dewey 900s (History, Travel, and Biography) has been united in the 2nd floor Historic Reading Room, instead of being divided between the 1st and 2nd floors as they had been.
- The International Language Collections (Chinese, Spanish, Russian, French, Japanese, Arabic, Urdu) have been put together in one expanded area in the Historic Reading Room. This includes all formats—Books, DVDs, Videos, and periodicals—which had been dispersed in different areas and were difficult to find on different floors. Space for these collections has increased by 64%
- Magazines have been relocated to the 3rd floor, combined with newspapers in a general periodicals section. There, comfortable new lounge seating for up to 12 persons has been installed to provide a welcoming place for browsers and laptop users. Current magazines are displayed on attractive face-out wall shelving. The Paging Desk has been removed to create a more spacious layout and an additional security camera will be added near the east elevator to mitigate the loss of a staff presence on this floor.

A popular materials area of new, high-use collections near the 1st floor entrance has been created.

- DVDs, videos, audio books, new fiction and new non-fiction are housed on rearranged shelving and gondola-type display units in the area near the main entrance. Existing shelving has been divided and repositioned in new layouts to better facilitate visibility and traffic flow through these popular, heavily-browsed materials. Bench seating has been added to this area.
- The concrete floor pavers received an extensive cleaning and sealing, dramatically improving their appearance and obscuring marks where shelves and counters were previously positioned

Public access computers changes:

- All public internet computers have been consolidated on the 2nd floor. The 14 computers formerly located on the 3rd floor mezzanine are now united with the 26 others on the 2nd floor, with new privacy barriers installed between them. This has improved the ability of staff to assist computer users. Computers designated for use exclusively by teens remain in the Teen Room.

Additional seating and study tables on the 2nd floor:

- The Friends of the Library “mini-sale” shelves were moved to accommodate two historic study tables, adding eight additional seats to this public area.

Checkout area:

- The Information Desk has been moved closer to the adult non-fiction and fiction collections, and located adjacent to the Check-out Desk, which also has been repositioned and reduced in size. These desks have been constructed from existing casework and countertops in order to retain the appearance of other service desks in the building.
- New shelves to accommodate patron holds have been installed, greatly expanding by 66% the shelf space for patrons using this increasingly popular service.



- A new counter to accommodate a greater number of self-check machines has been built adjacent to expanded shelving for patron reserves, facilitating quick and easy check-out.

Signage changes:

- The changes in collection locations and repositioning of 1st floor service desks naturally resulted in a need to change the content of a portion of the directory, way-finding, and identification signage. After an RFP process in summer 2010, the local Berkeley design firm Bruning and Associates was engaged to assess signage issues and make recommendations for improved copy and enhanced visual cues at the 1st floor service desks, which are now located more distant from the entrance. These signage changes will be completed during the first three months of 2011.

FUTURE ACTION

No future action is required.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

THURSDAY, JANUARY 6

6-8:30 p.m.: **Dirty Business**, a new documentary film presented by the Center for Investigative Reporting, explores the true social and environmental costs of coal power. A panel discussion with filmmaker Peter Bull will follow the screening. David Brower Center, 809-0900. browercenter.org. 2150 Allston Way.

7-11 p.m.: **Landmarks Preservation Commission**, Jay Claiborne, 981-7429. North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Ave.

7-9 p.m.: **Housing Advisory Commission**, Kristen Lee, 981-5427. South Berkeley Senior Center, 2939 Ellis St.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 7

Noon: Lunchtime Lecture Series **"The Rehabilitation of Children with Traumatic Brain Injury and Spinal Cord Injury"** by Jacob Neufeld, M.D., MSPH, Director of the Division of Pediatric Rehabilitation, Children's Hospital of Oakland, and Editor in Chief of the Journal of Pediatric Rehabilitation. City Commons Club, 845-8055. citycommonsclub.org. Drinks at 11:20 a.m. in the Venetian Room. Lunch at 11:45 a.m.. Speaker begins at 12:30 and meeting adjourns at 1:30. Lunch reservations required. 2315 Durant Ave. \$16.50 for lunch, no cost for lecture.

4 p.m.: **"The Rock" Basketball Game**, Saint Mary's College High School versus Salesian High. Frosh at 4 p.m., followed by the JV at 5:30 p.m., and the Varsity at 7:00 p.m. Saint Mary's College gymnasium, 1928 Saint Mary's Road, Moraga. VIP court-side tickets, \$12 and general seating, \$5

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8

9:30-10:30 a.m.: **Little Explorer Workshops: Wind, Water, Wheels** at the Lawrence Hall of Science. Series of three Saturday classes will invite children's experimentation and help them formulate cause-and-effect relationships. Receive materials to continue playing and investigating at home. For children ages 3 to 7. A participating adult must attend with each child. \$65.

10 a.m.-noon: **Freedom From Tobacco Quit Smoking Class**, Marcia Brown-Machen, 981-5330. Sessions each Saturday through February 12. Free acupuncture is available. South Berkeley Senior Center, 2939 Ellis St. Free.

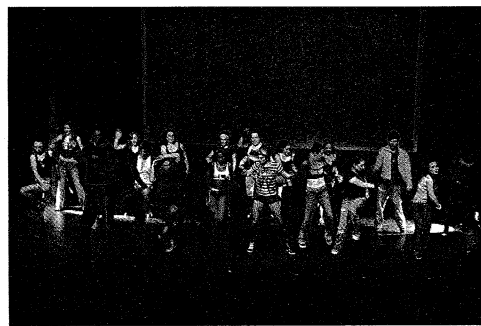
10 a.m.-noon: **Marina Boat Auction**, Ann Hardinger, Harbormaster, 981-6740. \$500 minimum bid required. Berkeley Marina, 201 University Ave. cityofberkeley.info/ContentDisplay.aspx?id=8700

8-10 p.m.: **Saturday Night Stargazing**, a public viewing program sponsored by the LHS and Bay Area amateur astronomers. Stargazing is always weather permitting. Foggy and overcast skies can cancel stargazing at the last minute. Dress warmly. LHS, Centennial Drive. 642-5132. lawrencehallofscience.org. Free.

2-4 p.m.: Berkeley Public Library's



The View is just one of the *Portraits of Nature* by Ayako Harashima on display through Feb. 6 at the Berkeley Public Library.



Berkeley High School Presents: *Dance Production 2011*, a showcase of stupendous student choreography, at 7 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, Jan. 7, 8, 14, 15, in the Florence Schwimley Little Theater. \$7-12.

Local Places...Sacred Spaces...

Series presents a free reading of Edwin Bernbaum's *The Heights of Inspiration: the Sacred Mountains in the World* as well as a preview of *Terraces*, a dance/poetry collaboration presented by PACES. Alan Bern, 981-6107. Central Library, Community Meeting Room, 3rd Floor, 2090 Kittredge St. Free.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9

1 p.m.: **Sunday Sampler Acting Classes**. Berkeley Rep School of Theater, 647-2972 or berkeleyrep.org/school. Taught by professional theatre artists, our classes offer people of all ages and abilities an opportunity to explore the craft of theatre and experience the joy of

dynamic engagement with their own creativity. Following a brief introduction, participants may sample four different classes from a menu of options. Open to youths, teens, and adults. Free.

MONDAY, JANUARY 10

2:30-3:30 p.m.: **Council Agenda Committee**, Deanna Despain, 981-6900. Martin Luther King Jr. Civic Center, 2180 Milvia St.

Noon-3:30 p.m.: **Portraits of Nature** an exhibit of oil paintings by Bay Area artist Ayako Harashima. On display through February 6. Michele McKenzie, 981-6240. Berkeley Public Library Central Catalog Lobby, 2090

Kittredge St. Free.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11

6 p.m.: **Berkeley East Bay Track Club Sign-Ups**. Coach Ralph Walker, 776-7451 or ralphwalker27@yahoo.com. The purpose of the club is to make Track & Field accessible to more young athletes, and is free of charge. Boys and girls between the ages of 3 and 14 years old are welcome. Berkeley High School track. Free.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12

6:30-8:30 p.m.: **Board of Library Trustees**, Donna Corbeil, 981-6195. Berkeley Public Library, South Branch, 1901 Russell St.

7 p.m.: **"I Can't Dance" Dance Classes**. This is a three-session series designed for those who have felt awkward on the dance floor. Learn simple moves and turns that will get you through a range of music for any occasion. Pre-registration required. Shirley Adams, (404) 245-7977. comeoutdancing.com. Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists Education building, 1606 Bonita Ave. Sliding scale: \$30-\$60.

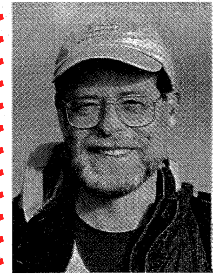
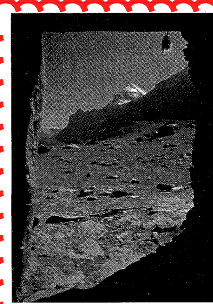
7-10 p.m.: **Waterfront Commission**, John Mann, 981-6740. Berkeley Marina, 201 University Ave.

7-10 p.m.: **Police Review Commission**, Victoria Urbi, 981-4950. South Berkeley Senior Center, 2939 Ellis St.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13

3:15-5:30 p.m.: **We Have a Dream Tribute and Peace Walk** sponsored by the Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Department. Kim LeMay, 981-6650. Join us for a tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and go on a Peace Walk through the James Kenney neighborhood. We will return to James Kenney and weave our dreams for the future onto our Dream Wall. All youth under the age of 13 must be accompanied by an adult. James Kenney Recreation Center, 1720 8th St.

6-10 p.m.: **The Economics of Happiness**, a film presented by the International Society for Ecology & Culture, considers "going local"



Berkeley Public Library presents a reading of Edwin Bernbaum's *The Heights of Inspiration: the Sacred Mountains in the World* Saturday, Jan. 8.

as a powerful strategy to repair our world. A panel discussion with director and special guests will follow the screening. David Brower Center, 809-0900. browercenter.org. 2150 Allston Way.

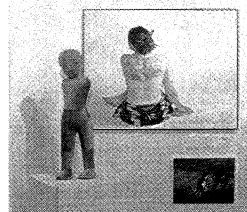
7-11 p.m.: **Zoning Adjustments Board**, Steven Buckley, 981-7430. Council Chambers, 2134 Martin Luther King Jr. Way.

7-8 p.m.: **Classroom Matters Study Skill Workshop**. This month, the focus will be on helping students prepare for final exams and final projects. Topics will include time management, test preparation and strategies for dealing with test anxiety. RSVP to shirley@classroommatters.com with include the student's name, grade level and school. Space is limited to 20. Classroom Matters, 2436 Sacramento St.

Arts Calendar



Above left: *Mary Curtis Ratcliff* is just one of artist members whose artwork is now featured at Green, a group show now at the Berkeley Art Center through Jan. 23. Above right: A sampling of the artwork on display.



THURSDAY, JANUARY 6

Noon-5 p.m.: **Green: Berkeley Art Center Members Showcase**. Open Wednesday through Sunday until January 23. Berkeley Art Center, 644-6893. 1275 Walnut Street.

2p.m. and 8 p.m.: **The Composer Is Dead**, written by Lemony Snicket, music by Nathaniel Stookey, set, costume and marionette design by Phantom Limb, directed by Tony Taccone. 65 minutes, no intermission. Berkeley Rep, Roda Theatre. \$34-\$59.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8

2 p.m. and 8 p.m.: **The Composer Is Dead** (see Jan 6). \$47-\$65.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9

2 p.m. and 7 p.m.: **The Composer Is Dead** (see Jan. 6). \$39-\$59.

7 p.m.: Berkeley Symphony presents **Under Construction New Music Concert**. Witness the

creation and transformation of new works by three Bay Area emerging composers as Berkeley Symphony brings their music to life. Includes a Q&A session with the composers and Music Director Joana Carneiro. berkeley_symphony.org. 841.2800. St. John's Presbyterian

Church, 2727 College Ave. Doors open at 6:30. \$10-\$20.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11

8 p.m.: **The Last Cargo Cult**, Written and performed by Mike Daisey, directed by Jean-Michele Gregory. Berkeley Rep, Thrust Stage. \$29-\$43.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13

Suspicion: The Films of Claude Chabrol and Alfred Hitchcock, PFA. 7 p.m.: *Suspicion*, Alfred Hitchcock (1941). 99 Minutes.

8 p.m.: **Gush**, a dance performance curated by Joe Goode featuring AXIS Dance Company, Ledoh, and Joe Goode Performance Group. (Performers vary by date, please call for more information.) Brava Theater, (415) 647-2822. 2781 24th St., San Francisco. \$25-\$30.

8 p.m.: **The Last Cargo Cult** (see Dec 9). \$39-\$59.

Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison St. 647-2949 www.berkeleyrep.org

PFA, 2575 Bancroft Way. 642-1412 bampfa.berkeley.edu



Berkeleyside's first Local Business Forum: the line-up



Berkeley to move cautiously on marijuana grow facilities



A city looks for big solutions in little – very little – houses



Arts

Berkeley library select artists for two new commissions

January 11, 2011 11:00 am by [Tracey Taylor](#)



Eric Powell's design for a steel rail-guard at the Claremont library which will look like bookshelves.

The Berkeley library has chosen two artists to create new public works for their North Berkeley and Claremont branches, both of which are to [undergo major renovations](#), after holding a competition for the projects.

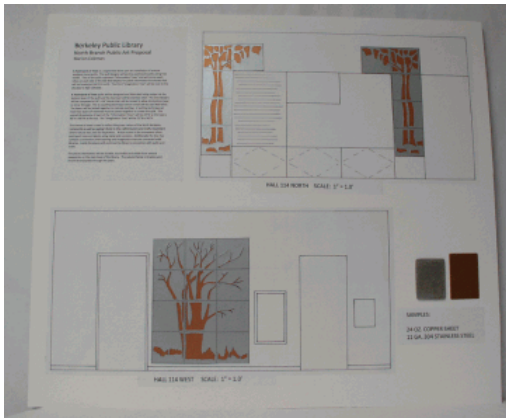
On Friday last week six local artists presented possible projects to the library's Visual Arts Selection Panel as part of the competition which, according to Berkeley Civic Arts Coordinator Mary Ann Merker, attracted 16 initial entrants. The winning entries were those submitted by Berkeley metal artist [Eric Powell](#) for the Claremont library, and Castro Valley artist [Marion Coleman](#) for the north Berkeley library.

Eric Powell, whose studio is on Camelia Street in Berkeley, will create a steel plate guard rail for a new ramp leading to the Claremont library's front doors. Titled "Bookshelves", the rail will feature stacks of books as well as the

ocasional object one might find on bookshelves, such as a globe or a bust.

“It will be an integral part of the building both visually and functionally,” says Powell who is particularly pleased he won the commission as this branch library is one he lived close to and frequented regularly when he was a student at the [California College of the Arts](#) and lived on College Avenue.

Powell, who has been involved in many public art projects, including for new libraries in San Francisco and Castro Valley, has a budget of \$29,000 for the railings which, he says, will have “tremendous longevity”. He says railings are often seen as a mundane part of a building, but he views them as being full of potential. “Gates and railings can be used as canvasses and have endless possibilities,” he says.



Marion Coleman's presentation of her winning project: a copper and steel patchwork of trees.

Marion Coleman, who specializes in quilts, both traditional textile ones and those made in mixed media, will create two appliqué metal quilts using tree motifs.

Coleman says she was inspired to use nature as a theme because of the library's location – she points to the “abundance of trees and greenery in north Berkeley” — and as a reference to the California Arts & Crafts movement whose influence can be seen in much of the area's architecture.

It also turns out there is a natural synergy between Coleman's work and the library as the library has a special collection of books on quilts.

Coleman has created numerous public work commissions and has been artist in residence at the [deYoung Museum](#), among others.

The piece, called “A Patchwork of Trees”, is to be made of copper and stainless steel and will be part of information boards located in a new section of the library being built as part of the renovations.

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Tagged [Berkeley Public Library](#), [Eric Powell](#), [Marion Coleman](#)

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Famed Balinese music troupe to move to Berkeley




Willard swimming pool is now filled with mud



January 24: Berkeleyside's first Local Business Forum

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The Berkeley Wire: 01.06.10

January 6, 2011 4:55 pm by Lance Knobel




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Berkeley Public Library
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V A C A N C Y

- Position starts May '13.
- Learn more and hear from current Trustees at the optional Open House at Central on Feb. 1, 6:30PM.
- Click for an application & supplemental questionnaire.

Carolyn Jones



NEWS

For Immediate Release
January 10, 2011

Contact: [Elizabeth Markel](#)

Top genre fiction titles named to 2011 RUSA Reading List

SAN DIEGO —The Reference and User Services Association (RUSA) has announced its selection for the 2011 [Reading List](#).

The Reading List annually recognizes the best books in eight genres: adrenaline (including suspense, thriller and adventure), fantasy, historical fiction, horror, mystery, romance, science fiction and women's fiction. This year's list includes novels that will please die-hard fans, as well as introduce new readers to the pleasures of genre fiction.

The winning titles were selected by the Reading List Council, whose members include Jacqueline Sasaki, chair, Ann Arbor District Library; Alicia Ahlvers, Kansas City Public Library; Jennifer Baker, Seattle Public Library; Cheryl Bryan, Massachusetts Library System, Waltham, Mass.; Craig Clark, formerly with Cuyahoga County Public Library; Kathleen Collins, University of Washington Libraries, Seattle; Megan McArdle, Berkeley Public Library; Joyce Saricks, Downers Grove, Ill.; Sharron Smith, vice-chair, Kitchener Public Library; Kimberly Wells, Denton Public Library; Neal Wyatt, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Va. And Alan Ziebarth, Chicago.

The 2011 winners are:

Adrenaline

"The Nearest Exit" by Olen Steinhauer, Minotaur Books (9780312622879)

Burned-out spy Milo Weaver confronts layers of deceit as his career collides with his desire to reclaim his family and his humanity. The labyrinthine intrigues enhance a building atmosphere of paranoia in this dark and emotionally-charged classic espionage thriller.

Read-Alikes:

"The Quiet American" by Graham Greene

"The Spy Who Came in from the Cold" by John Le Carré

"Night Soldiers" by Alan Furst

Short List:

"Caught" by Harlan Coben, E. P. Dutton (9780525951582)

"Crashers" by Dana Haynes, Minotaur (9780312599881)

"Deep Shadow" by Randy Wayne White, Putnam Pub. Group (9780399156267)

"They're Watching" by Gregg Hurwitz, St. Martin's (9780312534905)

Fantasy

"Under Heaven" by Guy Gavriel Kay, Roc (9780451463302)

Haunted by the ghosts of fallen warriors, Shen Tai is forced into the political machinations of the Emperor's court when he receives a rare and valuable gift. Lyrical language and complex characterization draw readers into this elaborately unfolding epic set in a fantasy world that richly re-imagines 8th-century Tang Dynasty China,

Read-Alikes:

"Black Ships" by Jo Graham

"Genghis: Birth of an Empire" by Conn Iggulden

"The Moon and the Sun" by Vonda N. McIntyre

Short List:

- "Finch" by Jeff VanderMeer, Underland Press (9780980226010)
"The Half-Made World" by Felix Gilman, Tor Books (9780765325525)
"The Hundred Thousand Kingdoms" by N.K. Jemisin, Orbit (9780316043915)
"Nights of Villjamur" by Mark Charan Newton, Spectra (9780345520845)

Historical Fiction

"The Invisible Bridge" by Julie Orringer, Alfred A. Knopf (9781400041169)
In this sweeping yet intimate portrait of a Hungarian Jewish family in Europe, two lovers become enmeshed in the turmoil of the Holocaust. With gorgeous prose and an exquisite evocation of Paris and Budapest, Orringer writes movingly of their strength and the bittersweet power of hope and love.

Read-Alikes:

- "Corelli's Mandolin" by Louis De Bernieres
"The Piano Teacher" by Janice Y. K. Lee
"A Thread of Grace" by Mary Doria Russell

Short List:

- "A Battle Won" by S. Thomas Russell, Putnam (9780399156892)
"A Fierce Radiance" by Lauren Belfer, HarperCollins (9780061252518)
"The Golden Mean" by Annabel Lyon, Alfred A. Knopf (9780307593993)
"The Rebellion of Jane Clarke" by Sally Gunning, Morrow (9780061782145)

Horror

"The Dead Path" by Stephen M. Irwin, Doubleday (9780385533430)
Guilt-ridden Nicholas Close retreats to his family home in Australia after the tragic death of his wife, only to encounter an ancient malevolence lurking in the nearby woods. Childhood nightmares and fairytale motifs combine in this emotionally powerful tale of implacable evil. Arachnophobes beware!

Read-Alikes:

- "It" by Stephen King
"Faerie Tale: A Novel of Terror and Fantasy" by Raymond Feist
"Dark Hollow" by Brian Keene

Short List:

- "The Caretaker of Lorne Field" by David Zeltserman, Overlook (9781590203033)
"The Frenzy Way" by Gregory Lamberson, Medallion Press (9781605421070)
"Horns" by Joe Hill, William Morrow (9780061147951)
"So Cold the River" by Michael Koryta, Little Brown (9780316053648)

Mystery

"Bury Your Dead" by Louise Penny, Minotaur (9780312377045)
Troubled by past mistakes, Chief Inspector Gamache, in his sixth outing, retreats to snowy and insular Quebec City, where he becomes embroiled in intertwining investigations both old and new. Penny expertly delivers a layered story that is haunting, moody, and exquisitely drawn.

Read-Alikes:

- "A Test of Wills" by Charles Todd
"Haunted Ground" by Erin Hart
"In the Bleak Midwinter" by Julia Spencer-Fleming

Short List:

- "Faithful Place" by Tana French, Viking (9780670021871)
"The Taken" by Inger Ash Wolfe, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (9780151013531)

"Think of a Number" by John Verdon, Crown (9780307588920)
"Vermilion Drift" by William Kent Krueger, Simon & Schuster (9781439153840)

Romance

"A Matter of Class" by Mary Balogh, Vanguard Press (9781593155544)
A lady is ruined. A merchant's son is trapped. Class differences loom large in this charming and playful take on the arranged marriage. Balogh's Regency gem, where nothing is quite as it seems, is filled with affection and wit.

Read-Alikes:

"Faro's Daughter" by Georgette Heyer
"In for a Penny" by Rose Lerner
"The Viscount Who Loved Me" by Julia Quinn

Short List:

"Barely a Lady" by Eileen Dreyer, Hachette (Forever) (9780446542081)
"The Forbidden Rose" by Joanna Bourne, Berkley (9780425235614)
"The Iron Duke" by Meljean Brook, Berkley (9780425236673)
"Something About You" by Julie James, Berkley Sensation (9780425233382)

Science Fiction

"The Dervish House" by Ian McDonald, Pyr (9781616142049)
A terrorist bomb sets off a chain of events that, over the next five days, entangles the lives of six characters. McDonald brilliantly imagines a world in which the ultramodern exists side-by-side with the ancient, as he blends science and mysticism to embody the contradiction that is Istanbul in 2027.

Read-Alikes:

"Pattern Recognition" by William Gibson
"When Gravity Fails" by George Alec Effinger
"The Windup Girl" by Paolo Bacigalupi

Short List:

"Ark" by Stephen Baxter, ROC (9780451463319)
"Blonde Bombshell" by Tom Holt, Hachette (9780316086998)
"Darkship Thieves" by Sarah Hoyt, Baen (9781439133170)
"The Lifecycle of Software Objects" by Ted Chiang, Subterranean Press (9781596063174)

Women's Fiction

"Solomon's Oak" by Jo-Ann Mapson, Bloomsbury (9781608193301)
Recently widowed Glory Solomon collects stray animals and damaged souls. Facing bankruptcy, she creates a new life catering themed weddings. This deeply felt yet unsentimental novel explores grief, healing and second chances.

Read-Alikes:

"Shelter Me" by Juliette Fay
"The Second Coming of Lucy Hatch" by Marsha Moyer
"The Blessings of the Animals" by Katrina Kittle

Short List:

"The Girl Who Chased the Moon" by Sarah Addison Allen, Bantam (9780553807219)
"The Language of Sand" by Ellen Block, Bantam Books (9780440245759)
"The Love Goddess' Cooking School" by Melissa Senate, Gallery (9781439107232)
"Vintage Affair" by Isabel Wolff, Bantam (9780553807837)

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Wednesday
January 12, 2011

FRONT PAGE OPINION COLUMNISTS ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT CONTENTS

Page One

New: Berkeley's Landmarks Commission Considers Proposed Library Demolition, Pelican Building on UC Berkeley Campus

By Steven Finacom

Wednesday January 12, 2011



Steven Finacom

The 1956 Pelican Building on the UC Berkeley campus has been nominated as a City of Berkeley Landmark. The Commission will decide on the designation in February.

Berkeley's Landmarks



Preservation Commission opened a public hearing on one new proposed landmark and mulled over issues related to an environmental impact report on the branch Berkeley library renovations and demolitions at its first regular meeting of the new year on January 6, 2011.

Pelican Building

A landmark application for the Pelican Building on the UC Berkeley campus was submitted in December to the Commission by two LPC members, Gary Parsons and Robert Johnson. The one-story, pavilion-like structure on the banks of Strawberry Creek north of Barrows Hall was constructed in 1956 to the design of Joseph Esherick who had consulted with Bernard Maybeck in the early stages of the

design process.

When completed, the building housed the "California Pelican", the student humor magazine that had been founded by the donor of the building, Earle C. Anthony, at the beginning of the 20th century. In more recent decades, after the demise of the "Pelican", it has been reassigned as the headquarters of the Graduate Assembly, the graduate student wing of the Associated Students (ASUC).

The Commission opened a public hearing on the nomination and heard from one speaker, Beth Piatnitzka. Piatnitzka, Assistant Director of Physical and Environmental Planning at UC Berkeley told the Commission "for the University it's a non-controversial issue. We have always considered that building to be a historic resource."

She said the building “does have a seismic issue, and some ADA (Americans with Disability Act) issues”, and the campus is contemplating renovations. “We’ll be working with the guidance of a preservation consultant.” She added that the University is preparing a Historic Structures Report on the building.

There were no other speakers who asked to address the Commission about the Pelican Building, but at the suggestion of Parsons and Johnson the Commission voted to hold the public hearing open until the February meeting.

Parsons said, “some people at Esherick’s office would like an opportunity to comment”, and couldn’t attend in January. Esherick, who died in 1998, founded the design practice now known as EHDD, based in San Francisco. Several of his early colleagues there—George Homsey, Peter Dodge, and Chuck Davis—are still connected with the firm. Last year the LPC designated another Esherick-designed building in Berkeley, the YWCA at Bancroft and Bowditch, as a City Landmark.

Parsons noted that in his research on the Pelican Building he realized “we’re moving to different kind of documentation. Every piece of communication was on file in the (Environmental Design) Archives” at the University.” “The task becomes not digging up little bits that are rare, but winnowing through lots of stuff” to prepare a landmark application.

Library Branches

While the Pelican nomination was relatively brief and uncontroversial, a large part of the Commission’s time and attention at the meeting was taken up with the complex issues of Berkeley’s four branch libraries. Two of the libraries—the North Branch and the West Branch—are designated City of Berkeley landmarks. The other two—South and Claremont Branches—are generally regarded as historic resources, but do not have formal landmark status.

A contingent of Library and other staff, consultants, and both Library allies and critics offered comments to the Commission as they grappled with a thicket of policy considerations related to the branches.

The Library currently proposes to demolish and rebuild two of the branches—South and West—and renovate the other two, with a major rear addition on the North Branch and a very small external addition to the Claremont Branch.

A lawsuit by the Community Library Users group has challenged the demolition of the South and West branches and the use of funds from 2008’s Measure FF bond vote to build new branches, and the City and CLU are currently in settlement talks.

Meanwhile, the City has issued a draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) on the South and West Branch projects. As a result of a partial settlement in the lawsuit the enactment of zoning changes to all five Berkeley Public Library sites—the branches, as well as the Central Library—has been repealed and incorporated into the DEIR for study.

The Commission was being asked by City staff at this meeting to offer any comments it would like for consideration in the Final EIR. The item was listed on the agenda as “for commission review and comment” and an action item.

The discussion of the libraries divided into two parts during the meeting. First, several individuals testified during the open Public Comment period at the beginning of the meeting. Later in the meeting City staff interacted with the Commission about the DEIR in particular.

During the public comment period, Peter Warfield, representing the Library Users Association, said he was “here to talk about the Draft EIR and in general what’s happening with Berkeley’s

libraries.” He argued that the voter approved Measure FF did not contemplate demolition of the branches.

“There was no mention of demolition in the measure or related materials.” “It appears that the public was not told, and certainly not before the election, that there would be demolition, with the exception of a small hint in one of the pieces of literature.”

Regarding the South Branch library, he said it had the “feeling of a really jam packed attic”, and that it was understandable from a Library staff perspective to want more space. But the crowding of equipment, furnishings, and materials in the building also “ruins many of the qualities the building has”. Skylights have been covered, and bookcases placed in front of windows, Warfield said, obscuring the original character of the structure.

“I would urge you to make the South Branch a landmark” he told the Commission and the City should “pay for the renovation people voted for.”

Judith Epstein, part of the Concerned Library Users group, followed Warfield. She noted that her group is distinct from the Library Users Association. “Somewhere along the line with the branch improvements there came the notion that historic elements couldn’t be saved”, she said. But the purpose of an EIR is to question such assumptions, she added.

She said that CLU has hired Berkeley architect Todd Jersey to “come up with options to preserve the historic elements” of the two demolition-threatened branches, and suggest ways to make expansions that would “echo the original design.”

“There is a better way, a greener way, to improve these libraries”, Epstein said. “I would urge you to ask questions as part of the DEIR process.” Regarding the zoning amendment that would make it easier to expand or make other alterations to all of Berkeley’s public libraries in the future, Epstein asked “what is the impact?” “What is the long term impact?” “How will it affect the neighborhoods around these libraries?”

Epstein said that the Concerned Library Users had presented some design concepts for renovation of branches to the City Attorney as part of the settlement process for their lawsuit. In response, Commission Chair Gary Parsons said “I would be really interested in seeing them.”

Epstein said that CLU would be happy to have Jersey come speak to the Commission at a later date about the renovation options.

Jersey also gave brief testimony during the Public Comment period. He said he had been asked by CLU to examine “whether it was feasible to save the original structures of the branch libraries.” He recalled “going to the South Branch library as a child” when he grew up in Berkeley. “I love that little building. I remember it particularly as a warm and friendly place.”

“The original buildings (South and West branches) are good examples of the time periods they were designed in”, he said. “On the South Branch it’s quite simple to save the two main rooms, tear out the 1970s (addition), and build from there.”

Jersey noted he was the design architect for the recently renovated and re-opened, and widely praised, historic Richmond Plunge. “I am a leading green architect, and a budding preservation architect”, he told the Commission. “I love old buildings and, in particular, some of the old buildings I grew up with in Berkeley.”

David Snyder was the next Public Comment speaker, identifying himself as the Executive Director of the Berkeley Public Library Foundation, a non-profit group closely allied with the Library administration that is raising funds to provide fixtures and furnishings for the renovated or rebuilt branches.

He read the text of Measure FF and said “in preparation for that (Measure FF), the City incorporated an evaluation of the sites and an evaluation of the costs”, and “one of the elements in particular that they tried to have was keeping the projects within budget.”

“If you go into the branches you can become acquainted with the unsafe conditions there.” The South and West branches, he added “have gone through deterioration to such an extent that it makes it infeasible except to go forward with demolition of these two branches.”

Snyder said the current planning provided “new buildings at both South and West to accomplish the goals of the plan and provide what the residents of Berkeley voted for.” He said the alternative was “have no project, which is not what the citizens of Berkeley were looking for.”

Snyder was followed by Dave Fogerty, who identified himself to the Commission as a resident of Otis Street near the South Branch. He said “I also live with a librarian, recently retired” and “I attended the three public workshops” on the South branch.

“The architects considered the alternatives of renovating...and preservation alternatives,” he said. “It was the conclusion of most people who participated that it was more economic and of better value to the public” to build a new South Branch.

After Fogerty spoke, Commissioner Carrie Olson asked him who he worked for. Fogerty said he worked for the City of Berkeley’s Office of Economic Development, but he was speaking to the Commission as a private citizen.

Diane Davenport, a retired librarian from the Berkeley Public Library and current President of the Friends of the Library, spoke next saying in regard to the South Branch “the EIR says that the environmentally superior alternative is to do nothing” but “that poses significant life safety risks to the public.”

“This EIR says South and West branches pose risks.” “Let’s move ahead with the proposed projects and build safe branches.”

The final speaker, Bradley Weidemeier, talked about the South Branch, saying “it should be a landmark. There’s no question that it’s a very significant piece of architecture.” He also questioned the City’s proposal for a zoning amendment that would permanently alter the development restrictions on Berkeley’s five Library properties. “Why a variance in perpetuity?” he asked. “Why not one time, for the renovations? Our planning tools are important and should be utilized.” And “why the main branch?” he asked.

The Library has included the Central Library in the package of properties where zoning restrictions would be loosened, although the Central Library was renovated and expanded years ago and the Measure FF funding applies only to the branches.

Later in the meeting, at the beginning of the Commission discussion of the Library DEIR, Commissioner Olson excused herself from the room. Her architect father worked on the design of the South Berkeley Branch in the office of Hans Oswald, the architect of record.

“Since this (branch renovations, and the zoning amendment) was put on the agenda as one item, I’m going to have to leave for the whole item” she told the Commission. Before she left, however, she said to the room in general, including the contingent of Library staff and consultants present, “no one from the City contacted my father” when the South Berkeley branch was under study for renovation. “No one asked him for information about South Berkeley. No one asked him if it was earthquake safe. No one.”

City planner Aaron Sage took the podium next to make himself available for questions about the DEIR. He said that if the Commission provided comments, “they are comments that will have the

same legal status as any other public comments received.” He added that the City Council would certify the Final EIR, and also make the final decision on any zoning amendments affecting the Library. But to the Landmarks Commission, he said, “you will make the final decision on the demolition.”

Commissioner Steve Winkel asked, “as far as what we’re doing tonight, this would have the same status of a public citizen” in terms of how comments are evaluated in the EIR. “That’s right”, answered Sage.

Commissioner Anne Wagley noted “we as the Landmarks Commission have been alerted that an architect (Jersey) has prepared preservation alternatives that have not been incorporated into the Draft EIR.” She said that the suggestions of Todd Jersey should be part of the EIR study. “I think that’s a great idea”, Chair Parsons added.

Commissioner Austene Hall focused on the zoning amendment changes. “You don’t change the zoning laws just because you want to build your backyard house on someone else’s fence”, she told Sage, and asked why the zoning amendment was part of the EIR study?

“The zoning ordinance amendment is proposed, and with CEQA and the lawsuit (by Concerned Library Users) it was determined that it should be subject to an EIR”, Sage replied. The City decided that it would be most sensible to combine all the CEQA issues related to the Library in one EIR, rather than doing separate studies.

“The (zoning) amendment is not about a building type—libraries—but about specific sites?” Parsons wanted to know. “It’s specifically written to apply only to the five libraries that existed as of last year”, Sage answered. Parsons asked why the amendment is needed.

“There’s a lot of different things about these sites and about these libraries that warranted treating them differently than any site in a residential district”, Sage replied. Some of the branches are located on sites with residential zoning. But, for example, he said that the residential zoning requirement that generally limits buildings to 40% lot coverage is “very limiting” for the libraries. The Claremont remodel and the South and West Branch rebuilds would occupy most of their sites.

So, Parsons said, the rationale is that “the neighborhoods these three libraries are in are residential neighborhoods and these aren’t residential buildings?” “Correct”, said Sage.

Parsons also asked if the City had undertaken any comparable zoning amendments for other buildings or projects. Sage said that the Public Safety Building on Martin Luther King, Jr. Way went through a similar process. “Caution is definitely due on things like this but the zoning ordinance is an involved document”, Parsons said. “It would be wrong to think such an ordinance wouldn’t change over time. (But) everyone here is concerned about it.”

“It’s a very slippery slope”, worried Commissioner Wagley. “I think we’re headed down that slope.” “We’re opening it up to ‘now they can building something and the (zoning) protections are less’.” She noted that the landscaping surrounding the North Berkeley Branch library is an important community amenity, but loosening the zoning rules might allow future expansions—beyond the one currently planned—to encroach into the landscape.

Commissioner Christopher Linvill also asked about the zoning issues. “Variances are discouraged in the (zoning) code?” he said to Sage. “Certainly the spirit of what you’re saying is true”, Sage responded. “Generally ZAB (Zoning Adjustments Board) cannot recommend approval of a variance, particularly when you’re starting from a blank slate”, like constructing a new building. “It’s hard to make an argument that there’s anything unusual about a site that the conditions (of zoning) can’t be met.” Thus, the City has identified changing the zoning for the five library sites

as a way to avoid having to pursue variances for the branch renovation plans. “We didn’t think through all the different ways you could do a variance because that wasn’t on the table.”

“We always work with the Zoning Board to make the findings very specifically tailored to the project so it doesn’t create a precedent”, Sage said.

Wagley criticized the City for releasing the Draft EIR on the verge of the winter holidays. “I think we should also have a moratorium on new draft EIR’s issued in the last two weeks of December”, she said. This EIR came out mid-month, right before the holiday season, with the public review and comment period ending in January.

“What sort of access did we provide?” Sage asked, in reply. “It was available electronically on our website and a hard copy was available at all five libraries.” He did not speak to the timing issue.

Commissioner Miriam Ng asked how the seismic condition of the branch libraries was determined. Sage said “the standard for that would be complying with the building code”, which has been updated over the decades since the libraries were built to reflect new understanding about seismic engineering.

“It was assumed all the alternatives (under study in the EIR) would meet current building code”, which would require seismic upgrades. “There was destructive testing” said a representative of the Field Paoli architecture firm, speaking from the audience. “They tested some of the (concrete) block” in the South Branch. “There is a structural report, that discusses the lack of sufficient horizontal ties per current code. It would have to be reinforced, seismically braced, in a renovation scheme.”

“There has been an immense shift in building code” since the buildings were constructed, Commissioner Winkel said. “I don’t think anyone would say the building was unsafe when it was built.” “You can strengthen existing buildings to make them more code compliant.”

“If this (seismic safety) were the issue, you would tear down every house in Berkeley” Commissioner Hall added. “You CAN make an existing building safer.” “They’re done many times in California, and across the country. It can be restored and added onto and made earthquake safe.”

Hall said she didn’t feel that renovation alternatives for the branches had been sufficiently studied. “It doesn’t sound like that was fully looked at.” She said she was “thinking about the bond measure and the expectations of citizens.”

Commissioner Antionette Conteh asked about “the expectation of having the libraries remodeled” in the bond measure and how much each branch project would cost.

Director of Library Services Donna Corbeil spoke from the audience in answer, saying “It’s 26 million dollars out of Measure FF.” She said she didn’t have a detailed breakdown of the projected expenditures per branch with her. “

The program for each of the four (branch) buildings was based on the facilities master plan which was done prior to the Measure” going on the ballot, Corbeil said. “After the bond passed we did use that (the facilities master plan) as a basis”, but “it was really many factors that went into the budget planning.”

“The bond measure did not talk about demolition”, Commissioner Hall observed. “It did give possible alternatives,” said Corbeil (perhaps confusing the brief Measure FF wording itself with the lengthy master plan she was citing).

“For the South Branch they did look at a new branch” in the master plan. “It was mentioned in the Master Plan.” “I think that would be a big debate”, Corbeil went on. “In my mind, we had a

facilities master plan and our commitment was to have an extensive public process when the bond was passed.” “I do feel we have done that in the past two years.”

“I do feel the point was to look at what the needs were, then to engage the community once the bonds were passed”, Corbeil concluded.

“There have been situations where the City has made mistakes about buildings needing retrofitting”, Hall said. She pointed to the case of a church in North Berkeley where the City initially wanted to require an extensive and expensive seismic renovation; further study of the construction of the building showed it was sufficiently reinforced to merit a less costly upgrade.

As discussion continued, Winkel raised another issue about the EIR format. While “I understand aggregating the EIR” to include the building replacement issues and the zoning amendment, he questioned having one EIR address both the South and West Branch libraries. “They’re apples and oranges”, he said. “The public would be much better served if there were two separate documents.”

Parsons turned the discussion to the West Branch library. Since the building is a designated City of Berkeley landmark, he asked Sage, “from your conversations with the city attorney”, what would be the role of the Landmarks Commission in reviewing the design of a new building if the old is demolished?

“Your role would be limited to the review of the demolition and that (the) Design Review (Committee) would be in the driver’s seat” on reviewing new construction”, said Sage. “We have a lot of sites in Berkeley where the landmark was demolished years ago and the landmark address is still on the list”, Sage added.

“If we don’t have any role in design review formally, we can all show up as citizens at the Design Review Committee”, Parsons observed.

Winkel noted that in the DEIR there is discussion about a partial demolition / partial rebuild alternative for the South and West branches, but the document concludes that is infeasible because it would be more expensive than the project budget. While “the EIR is not an economic analysis”, Winkel said, “the decision to discard the alternative (in the EIR) was an economic decision.”

Commissioners discussed how to frame their comments for the DEIR process. Commission staff secretary Jay Claiborne said that staff had been noting comments by the Commission and would provide a draft to Commissioners to review, before submitting them to the EIR process. Commissioners seemed to think that would be suitable, rather than a formal motion from the Commission listing specific comments.

Sage added that “our past practice” is to take comments from Commissioners by name and review them in EIRs. In other business, the Commission discussed a proposal to set up a subcommittee to review the list of “pending demolitions” provided by the City, but decided to continue the informal practice of Commissioners reviewing the list on their own, then calling out individual projects of concern.

Pending demolitions of historic buildings has been a point of contention between Commission and City staff in recent years; on a number of occasions City staffers outside the Commission staff have not fully informed the Commission that a potentially historic building is proposed for demolition.

Mills Act

The Commission also discussed the process of reviewing compliance with Mills Act contracts. The State-mandated Mills Act allows owners of designated historic properties to divert some of their property taxes into renovations and repairs of their buildings. The owners must sign a contract with a local jurisdiction—in this case, the City—to qualify for the tax advantages.

Commission staff said that Mills Act contracts in Berkeley currently need review, but the inspections would take more time than there is staff time available. Mills Act contracts generally need to be evaluated every two years, to make sure that the property owner is making the repairs and upgrades specified and complying with the terms of the contract.

Staff suggested that Commissioners might take a role in conducting visits to / inspections of Berkeley Mills Act properties. While the suggestion intrigued the Commission, there were also concerns from Commissioners about the quasi-legal role of the inspections.

“Is the inspection something that acts as a screen(ing) for potential enforcement?” asked Commissioner Linvill. Yes, answered the staff. “I wouldn’t ever go alone” on an inspection Commissioner Olson said, since she is not trained as an architect or inspector. “Even if an architect were to go, they should go with another person”, Chair Parsons said. “I would say we should be going with a City staff person”, Commissioner Wagley added.

Marin Circle

In other business, during the staff report period, Claiborne reported that it appeared the City would make the Landmarks staff secretary position permanent, and would do a search for a permanent staff member. Claiborne has been working on a temporary basis since the departure of the last permanent Commission secretary, Terry Blount, for a job in Contra Costa County.

The Commission also discussed a proposal by AT & T to install a new equipment box at The Circle on Marin Avenue. The traffic circle—including the central ornamental fountain, and the surrounding balustrades and steps down to Henry Street—is a City landmark.

Claiborne reported he was working with Public Works staff to explore how an equipment box could be most sensitively sited, particularly to avoid blocking the ornamental balustrades. He said the Public Works staff had been very cooperative and interactive with Landmarks staff, but that the box as proposed by AT & T could “create a terrible intrusion” on the Circle visual character.

He mentioned the possibility of trying to have the box shifted onto one of the side streets, so it would not be within the Circle visual perimeter. Olson suggested that instead of adding a new, second, box AT & T should be asked to consider consolidating old and new equipment in one box.

The LPC then continued with other business, including a presentation on energy efficiency for historic buildings. This correspondent left after the staff report, however.

(Disclosures. The author works for the University of California, Berkeley and is working on the Historic Structures Report for the Pelican Building. The author has also written commentary in earlier issues of the Planet on the dispute over Measure FF funding and the branch libraries. He is neither a party to the lawsuit or a member of any of the community groups related to the Library or the lawsuit.)

Caption:



Away at college, pining for Thai Temple's Sunday brunch.



Calling all citizen journalists — we have an app for that



Berkeleyside's first Local Business Forum: the line-up



Government

Meet Berkeley's newest "branch" library

January 13, 2011 12:43 pm by [Frances Dinkelspiel](#)



Berkeley is preparing to [close the Claremont and North branch](#) libraries for a year in order to remodel them and improve their seismic safety and disabled access. So what are library junkies expected to do?

Take a look at the new mobile branch library, known in another era as a bookmobile. Now it's called a BranchVan. It's idle now, but starting in the spring it will be shifting back and forth to the neighborhoods around the Claremont and North branches. Library patrons will be able to go online, put books on hold, and visit the van to pick them up; return books, and take out books displayed in the van.



2 Comments

Like

1

Email

Tagged [Berkeley Public Library](#), [bookmobile](#), [branch library improvement program](#), [Claremont Branch library](#), [North Branch library](#)

2 Comments



Rachel A. says:

January 13, 2011 at 12:52 pm

It's adorable! My mother drove a book mobile in NH in the 60s so I'm partial to the movable-book-feast. I'll be sorry to see my branch close but am excited for all of Berkeley to get their renovated and/or new branches.



wilma says:

January 13, 2011 at 1:01 pm

The book mobile/mobile library takes me back. How wonderfully functional and retro. I hope the Good Humor ice cream truck will park next to the mobile library when in my North Berkeley neighborhood.

Wednesday
January 19, 2011

FRONT PAGE OPINION COLUMNISTS ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT CONTENTS FULL TEXT

Page One

Library Buys Temporary Bookmobile – Paid for out of Branch Permanent Renovation Funds


By Steven Finacom

Wednesday January 19, 2011



Steven Finacom

The new Berkeley Public Library "BranchVan" was purchased and registered with nearly \$88,000 in funds taken from Berkeley's Measure FF bond designated to renovate and expand the four branch libraries. The mobile bookmobile is parked on Bancroft Way, west of Shattuck, in a former yellow zone now designated by the City as a reserved parking spot for the vehicle.

The City of Berkeley has  purchased and registered with the State, at a cost of nearly \$88,000, a bookmobile to bring limited Berkeley Public Library services to Berkeley neighborhoods when their branch libraries are closed down for renovation or demolition, starting this year.

To buy and register the temporary-use van the City dipped into bond money Berkeley voters approved for the permanent physical renovation of the branches.

The City Council gave approval for the purchase in July 2010. The vehicle, which the Library calls the "BranchVan", was apparently paid for last December, and recently stored on Bancroft Way behind the Central Branch library in a special curbside parking zone designated by the City at the same time the Council approved buying the van.

It's expected to begin operation when the North and Claremont Branch libraries are closed later this spring. The Library bills the van as part of the branch renovation program; the vehicle is prominently painted with the slogan "**Berkeley Public Library: Branch Improvement Program.**"

Funds from Measure FF, the 2008 Bond measure to finance renovation and expansion of Berkeley's four branch libraries, were used to buy the van, according to a City Council item from July 2010.

Measure FF, as presented to Berkeley voters, authorized \$26 million in bonds to "renovate, expand and make seismic and access improvements at the four neighborhood branch libraries." Berkeley voters approved it in November 2008.

The ballot Measure and City Attorney analysis of it made no mention of using funds from the bond to buy a bookvan or bookmobile for the library system or cover other expenses connected to ongoing branch operations but not directly related to the renovation, expansion, or making of seismic and access improvements to the branches.

The branch library plan is currently embroiled in community controversy—and a citizen lawsuit—over the decision of the City to demolish and rebuild, rather than "renovate and expand" the South and West branch libraries.

(Disclosure: this writer is of the opinion that Measure FF did not allow for funds to be spent on branch demolition, and has written about that issue in previous Planets).

In June, 2010, Director of Library Services Donna Corbeil told the Board of Library Trustees "Measure FF funds can be used to purchase the vehicle with the caveat it will be used to continue providing library services when a branch is closed."

The next month the Library told the City Council in writing that the proposed purchase of the van using Measure FF funds was "best aligned with the use restrictions imposed on funds sourced through

general obligation bonds."

"Funding for a vehicle purchase is sourced from the 2.4% (or \$623,683) share of Measure FF bond proceeds currently allocated to the overall program contingency," City staff told the Council in the approval item.

The City Council accepted the recommendation. City staff did also tell the Council at the time that the book van was desirable, but not essential to, the renovation of the branch libraries.

"The successful completion of the Branch Libraries Improvement Program does not require that alternative services be offered; however, a strong preference for continued services in the neighborhoods affected by a closure has been expressed in all four branch communities." (emphasis added)

When I asked Corbeil, via an e-mail exchange at the end of last week, to clarify whether the City Attorney had given her an opinion on the legality of using Measure FF funds to buy the bookvan, she refused to answer.

"Communications with the City Attorney's Office are exempt from disclosure under Government Code Section 6254 (k) as they are confidential under the attorney / client communication privilege, and thus will not be disclosed", she wrote back to me.

Corbeil also refused to provide information on whether the operating costs of the book van as well as the purchase cost would come out of Measure FF funds.

The Library projected, in 2010, that in addition to the purchase cost—then anticipated at \$83,000, slightly more than was ultimately spent on buying the van—it would spend another \$37,000 on "maintenance, fuel, on-going registration and related costs for the bookvan over the course of the branch library construction program." I asked Corbeil if she could tell me how long the Library expected to have the BranchVan in operation?

"The Library could find no document that contains information responsive to this question", she answered.

(In further research, I found this statement by Library staff from the notes describing a March 31, 2010 Community Meeting held at the Claremont Branch Library.

(Question) *"Will there be a temporary site during the closure?"* (Answer) *"The plan is to close two branches at a time and Claremont and North will be closed first. We would like patrons to visit the other branches that will be open, including the Central Library. South Branch is the closest branch to Claremont. The Board of Library Trustees is discussing the option of a book van to deliver holds and pick up materials in the neighborhoods of the closed branches."*

While the Claremont and North library closures and renovations will begin this year, there appears to be no exact projection for the dates of the South and West branch renovations, aside from a six-month Environmental Impact Report process that is currently underway. In a staff report to the Library Board of Trustees this month Corbeil stated, "the West Branch and South Branch projects are on hold pending completion of the EIR process."

The staff report to the City Council from July 2010 also notes that the Library had explored purchasing a used bookmobile from other libraries but "the vehicles offered in every case were out of warranty due to the vehicle being older than ten years or over mileage targets."

This would imply that a bookmobile can be regarded as outworn or obsolete after ten years, which would be long before Berkeley voters finish paying off the purchase cost and interest assigned to the Measure FF bonds.)

Corbeil also refused to provide information on the possibility of Berkeley Public Library use of the BranchVan after the branch library program is completed.

"There are no documents responsive to this request", Corbeil told me.

Would the Library discontinue and/or sell the BranchVan if it isn't going to be used after the branches reopen, I asked Corbeil?

"There are no documents responsive to this request", she again replied.

(In later research, however, I found a reference in the May 2010, Board of Library Trustee minutes that *"There is a possibility of selling bookmobile after branch improvement project is completed."*)

Some cost details of the purchase were among the few fragments of information provided by Corbeil in response to my interview questions. She forwarded me two document pdfs, one a purchase invoice from the vendor and the other registration information and a tally of the costs to register the "BranchVan" as a

motor vehicle with the State of California.

The BranchVan is a 2010 model Mercedes-Benz CargoVan 3500, also known as an "Explorer / Sprinter Van", purchased from "OBS Inc" of Canton, Ohio.

According to their website, "*OBS INC. is a leading supplier of Blue Bird school buses and a custom designer and builder of high quality specialty vehicles for customers nationwide. Our bookmobiles, mobile command centers, mobile classrooms, mobile methadone clinics, and more generally, our mobile medical units are used in a variety of challenging environments and are built to stand the rigors of daily use.*"

The "Explorer / Sprinter Van" is one of seven bookmobile models offered by the company, and is described on their website as having a capacity of up to 1,500 books.

The OBS salesperson was Barbara Ferne. According to an invoice from OBS, the City approved payment on December 7, 2010, and the company apparently received the money on December 14, 2010. The van was registered with the California Department of Motor Vehicles the next day.

Registration with the State of California cost \$8,689, according to the "Vehicle Registration Fee Calculator" summary Corbeil sent me. Expenses included \$910 for the basic vehicle registration payment--\$966 total, for all registration costs--and \$7,712 for sales tax.

I also asked Director Corbeil about the expected cost of operating the BranchVan. How much does the Library expect to pay to keep the vehicle in operation, and staff it, I asked?

Instead of answering directly, she suggested I look at the City's web page and the City Council agenda for July 13, 2009, and at two on-line .pdfs from the Board of Library Trustees, comprising hundreds of pages of miscellaneous reports and other materials on a variety of Library business operations.

"Board of Library agendas, minutes, and recordings can be found online at (the city's website)" Corbeil added. She gave me the City Council's website address as a starting point.

The July 13, 2010 City Council item contains this statement:

"In addition to the vehicle purchase cost of a bookvan, added costs will include sales tax and use fees, vehicle registration and license fees, as well as other expenses for maintenance servicing and fuel, and miscellaneous fees assessed either by the City, county, or state. At present full costs including vehicle purchase is estimated at \$120,000 over the life of the Branch Libraries Improvement Program."

Since the BranchVan cost \$79,100, and the registration costs and sales tax bring the disclosed costs to date to \$87,779, that leaves \$32,211 of the \$120,000, by the Library's estimate, for "expenses for maintenance servicing and fuel", spread "over the life of the Branch Libraries Improvement Program".

I also asked Corbeil if the Library expected to use any Measure FF Bond funds to pay for any of the operating costs?

She declined to say, referring me instead to the same broad sets of Council and Library minutes. I could not find in any of the on-line City Council or Board of Library Trustees documents information shedding light on this question other than the statement in the July, 2010 City Council item that "*Vehicle staffing is expected to be primarily sourced from the pool of branch staff affected by the then closed facilities.*"

The "BranchVan" appears to have been acquired without a formal public announcement, to date, other than the mentions in City Council and Library Trustee minutes and reports.

Although Director Corbeil told the Board of Library Trustees (BOLT) on January 12, 2011 that "staff continues to update the Library website with FAQs, announcements of meetings etc. as needed", I have not found any press release from the Library describing the arrival of the BranchVan or its uses.

Corbeil did add in that report to BOLT, "The Branch Van has been received and 'wrapped' with colorful graphics in anticipation of usage. The staff will identify opportunities to promote the service in advance of the closures so that the public is well aware of the temporary service."

When I reviewed it on January 18, 2011, the "Branch Construction Page" on the Library website did not contain any visible announcement of the van acquisition or the use of Measure FF funds to provide it.

However, a January 13, 2011 posting by Frances Dinkelspiel on the Berkeleyside blog characterizes the van, without attributing a City source, as "Berkeley's newest 'branch' library."

"Take a look at the new mobile branch library, known in another era as a bookmobile. Now it's called a BranchVan. It's idle now, but starting in the spring it will be shifting back and forth to the neighborhoods around the Claremont and North branches. Library patrons will be able to go online, put books on hold, and visit the van to pick them up; return books, and take out books

displayed in the van.”

--

EXCERPTS FROM CITY DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THE BRANCHVAN PURCHASE

The purchase of a Bookvan by the City was discussed in at least three Board of Library Trustees meetings in spring, 2010. The relevant excerpts from the minutes are below.

In April 2010, the Library Director reported to the Board of Library Trustees:

“As we get closer to entering the construction phase of the Branch Library Improvement Program the Library is continuing its investigation of the logistics involved in providing limited mobile library services in the immediate neighborhoods affected by closure. A request to open an RFP has been made with the City’s Purchasing Department tentatively scheduled to run from May 20 through May 27. Likewise, on behalf of the Library, Purchasing posted a list serve notice announcing the Library’s interest to consider procurement of a used bookmobile. Staff expects to conclude its research in time to present its findings and a recommendation to the board at the June 9th regular meeting. Following board approval, a recommendation to purchase will be included on the City Council consent calendar.”

The following month, May 2010, however, the BOLT minutes report a change in plans.

“Discussion regarding bookmobile. Director Corbeil responded to trustee questions and comments: Firms usually don’t lease bookmobiles. Bookmobiles are generally custom made to fulfill a specific library’s needs. The library has explored other options, including lease. Many libraries buy very large RV style bookmobiles, we don’t think they would work well in Berkeley. There is a possibility of selling bookmobile after branch improvement project is completed. Trustees expressed a strong interest in purchasing a vehicle. There was a discussion of the type of fuel options, diesel is the norm, but will explore if can convert it to bio-diesel after purchase. This item will be added to a future agenda.”

The next month, June 2010, BOLT approved asking the City Council to spend up to \$83,200 to buy a new bookvan.

*“The Board discussed the van presented to provide mobile library services during branch closures for construction. Staff responded to questions regarding the vehicle, it will be ADA accessible, have flexibility with moveable carts to take services inside partner organizations, and due to the size it will not require a special State of CA license to operate. **Director Corbeil reported that Measure FF funds can be used to purchase the vehicle with the caveat it will be used to continue providing library services when a branch is closed. (emphasis added)** Following approval by the board, staff will bring to City Council, following their approval a purchase order will be issued and the custom vehicle will be ordered. Preliminary schedule is for late fall delivery. Staff will explore local vendors for the personalized graphics/wrap, security system and bio-diesel options. Price does not include licensing and taxes.”*

City Manager Phil Kamlarz and Director of Library Services Donna Corbeil then conveyed the request to the City Council in a July 13, 2010, Consent Calendar item, excerpted below (emphasis added to document).

“RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution to authorize the City Manager to execute a purchase order with OBS Inc. of Canton, Ohio for the acquisition of a van configured for the provision of mobile library services during the closure periods of the four branch libraries while undergoing construction related to the Measure FF funded Branch Libraries Improvement Program in an amount not to exceed \$83,200 and to redesignate a 25’-0” yellow-curbed parking zone on Bancroft Way to a grey-curbed zone for exclusive Library-use only parking.

FISCAL IMPACT

A purchase order will be executed by the City Manager for the not-to-exceed purchase price of \$83,200, excluding sales taxes and user fees, vehicle registration and license fees, and miscellaneous fees assessed either by the City, county, or state.

Funding for this purchase is available through Measure FF Fund (308) in budget code 308-9301-450.70-42, 10LB28.

BACKGROUND

In November 2008, voters approved the sale of \$26M in bonds to renovate, expand, and make seismic and access improvements at the four neighborhood branch libraries. As the four branch improvement projects advance; and with the start of construction tentatively projected for March 2011 for the North and Claremont branches, the Board of Library Trustees requested that the Library explore cost effective

alternative service models for the impacted neighborhoods. This request was made in recognition by the board of the concerns of many citizens who are unable or unwilling to go to the Central Library or other branches when their branch is closed. Among the options the Library considered were city-wide mailbox-style book drops and book vending machines, temporary satellite locations in partnership with a hosting organization, providing paid or downtown parking, and procurement of a vehicle to provide mobile services. At the conclusion of researching the options, the Library determined that mobile services presented the most viable, cost effective, flexible means for providing library services throughout the life of the improvement program and was best aligned with the use restrictions imposed on funds sourced through general obligation bonds.

Determinants favoring mobile services included the ability to locate services where and when demand exists, to size the selected vehicle to Library needs and budgetary constraints, to configure the vehicle interior to service reserved/hold items and to provide a small browsing collection on roll-on/roll-off carts. Additionally, a book vehicle may serve as an important outreach tool to enhance the visibility of the Library's civic presence and its offered services throughout the City. Drawbacks are the ongoing operational maintenance and fuel expenses, cargo carrying capacity limits, overnight and weekend parking (addressed in this report), and general on-road risks.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The City's Purchasing Department released Request for Proposals (RFP) specification number 10-10522 on May 21, 2010 for a "Library Bookmobile." The RFP closed on June 3, 2010 upon which shortly thereafter a staff panel convened to evaluate the two received proposals based on the Library's needs and budgetary limitations.

Prior to the release of the RFP, staff in its overall exploration of alternative service options did contact several library systems that utilize bookmobiles to investigate the logistics involved in procuring a vehicle, the operational and service issues related to various vehicle types, interior configurations, technical features, vehicle servicing costs, and costs associated with CA emissions compliance. From the responses received, it was decided to focus on a van as the more suitable vehicle type for reasons of costs and functionality rather than that of an RV or bus type bookmobile. For this reason the issued RFP was structured towards a bookvan. More specifically, in the context of mobile services it was determined that a bookvan addresses concerns related to vehicle size, neighborhood accessibility and parking flexibility; thus, offering enhanced flexibility to schedule multiple points of service in any single neighborhood whether it be at parks, shopping areas, or street corners – in each case, given adequate safety clearances. Vehicle staffing is expected to be primarily sourced from the pool of branch staff affected by the then closed facilities.

In summary, selecting a bookvan is believed to provide greater neighborhood penetration; and, available staffing (with site scheduling to-be-determined) will allow the Library to more comprehensively satisfy patron demands during the closure phase of the Branch Library Improvement Program life...

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Funding for a vehicle purchase is sourced from the 2.4% (or \$623,683) share of Measure FF bond proceeds currently allocated to the overall program contingency.

Based on an evaluation of proposals, staff recommends OBS Inc. The OBS Inc. proposal at \$83,200 represents an all-in vehicle price of a current year Explorer I

Sprinter inclusive of a step-up in gross vehicle weight rate (GVWR) to 11,030, full vehicle graphics, use instructions and training, as well as specified equipment such as walls, floor, shelving, desk, swivel seats, bookcarts, and ramp.

In addition to the vehicle purchase cost of a bookvan, added costs will include sales tax and use fees, vehicle registration and license fees, as well as other expenses for maintenance servicing and fuel, and miscellaneous fees assessed either by the City, county, or state. At present full costs including vehicle purchase is estimated at \$120,000 over the life of the Branch Libraries Improvement Program. Lease options were not offered in either of the two received RFP proposals due to the manufacturer's offer of the bookvans as custom-built vehicles. Staff did contact other libraries who were interested in leasing their bookmobile; however, the vehicles offered in every case were out of warranty due to the vehicle being older than ten years or over mileage targets. Additionally, the offered vehicles were not of the bookvan type judged as more appropriate to the needs of the Library.

In regards to vehicle parking, the Library requests that the current yellow-curb zone on Bancroft Way and immediately to the south of the Library's Bancroft wing be redesignated to exclusive Library-use for bookvan dedicated parking. An evaluation conducted by the Transportation Division of Public Works concluded that doing so would have minimal impacts to the surrounding residential parking and commercial activity. This conversion would allow the Library immediate and certain access to the vehicle during operating hours for materials loading and unloading and eliminate added labor expenses for employee travel time to and from the City's corporation yard.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

Among the alternatives the Library explored was the option not to purchase a service vehicle. In such a situation, the Library would not provide limited in-community services for the distribution of library materials to patrons affected by a project closure. Impacted patrons would have the options of going to the Central Library or any of the other open branches. **The successful completion of the Branch Libraries Improvement Program does not require that alternative services be offered; however, a strong preference for continued services in the neighborhoods affected by a closure has been expressed in all four branch communities.”**

INVITATION TO BID

City of Berkeley ("City"), will receive sealed Bids at City of Berkeley, Purchasing Manager's Office, located at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Civic Center, 2180 Milvia Street, Third Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704, Telephone (510) 981-7320 until 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 22, 2011, for the following public work.

Contract No. 10-04126
CITY OF BERKELEY
BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY
CLAREMONT BRANCH IMPROVEMENT PROJECT



Measure FF

A California "B" contractor's license is required to bid this contract. Joint ventures must secure a joint venture license prior to award of this Contract.

Bidders must use City-supplied forms, including but not limited to, Document 00300 Bid Form, Document 00430 Subcontractors List, Document 00481 Noncollusion Affidavit and Document 00411 Bond Accompanying Bid (if applicable), in submitting bids. Bidders must present a sealed envelope containing

- 1) Bid Form;
- 2) A cashier's check, certified check, or corporate surety bond of not less than 10% of the amount bid, including additive alternates;
- 3) Subcontractors List; and
- 4) Noncollusion Affidavit

for deposit into the Bid Box located at the Purchasing Manager's Office no later than 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 22, 2011.

City will conduct a Pre-bid Conference and Site Visit at 9AM, Wednesday, February 2, 2011 at the project site (2940 Benvenue Avenue, Berkeley, CA). The Pre-Bid Conference and Site Visit will last approximately 2 hours.

NOTE: Prospective bidders will find that parking may be difficult. The City recommends that you allow ample time to drive to the project site, find a parking space, walk to the building and locate the starting point from which the Pre-Bid Conference will begin. All bidders are strongly encouraged to attend.

Bidders may obtain Contract Documents from ARC (telephone 415-602-8577) after January 31, 2011. Bidders are responsible for purchasing their own set of Contract Documents. For information pertaining to the Contract Documents, please contact Steven Dewan (Kitchell CEM) at (650) 393-3656.

Bidders are solely responsible for the cost of preparing their Bids.

City specifically reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to reject any or all Bids, or re-bid, or to waive inconsequential defects in bidding not involving time, price or quality of the work.

This contract will be subject to the Community Workforce Agreement approved by the Berkeley City Council at their January 18, 2011 meeting. The successful bidder and all subcontractors, at any tier, will be required to sign an Agreement to be Bound before they will be eligible for award of the contract.

The successful Bidder and its Subcontractors will be required to follow the nondiscrimination requirements set forth in the Bidding Documents and to pay prevailing wage rates at the location of the Work.

Contract retention under the Contract shall be Ten Percent (10%). City will permit the successful bidder to substitute securities for any retention monies withheld to ensure performance of the contract, as set forth in Document 00520 Escrow Agreement and incorporated herein in full by this reference, in accordance with Section 22300 of the California Public Contracts Code.

INVITATION TO BID

City of Berkeley ("City"), will receive sealed Bids at City of Berkeley, Purchasing Manager's Office, located at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Civic Center, 2180 Milvia Street, Third Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704, Telephone (510) 981-7320 until 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 15, 2011, for the following public work.

**Contract No. 10-04062
CITY OF BERKELEY
BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY
NORTH BRANCH IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**



Measure FF

A California "B" contractor's license is required to bid this contract. Joint ventures must secure a joint venture license prior to award of this Contract.

Bidders must use City-supplied forms, including but not limited to, Document 00300 Bid Form, Document 00430 Subcontractors List, Document 00481 Noncollusion Affidavit and Document 00411 Bond Accompanying Bid (if applicable), in submitting bids. Bidders must present a sealed envelope containing

- 1) Bid Form;
- 2) A cashier's check, certified check, or corporate surety bond of not less than 10% of the amount bid, including additive alternates;
- 3) Subcontractors List; and
- 4) Noncollusion Affidavit

for deposit into the Bid Box located at the Purchasing Manager's Office no later than 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 15, 2011.

City will conduct a Pre-bid Conference and Site Visit at 9AM, Wednesday, January 26, 2011 at the project site (1170 The Alameda, Berkeley, CA). The Pre-Bid Conference and Site Visit will last approximately 2 hours.

NOTE: Prospective bidders will find that parking may be difficult. The City recommends that you allow ample time to drive to the project site, find a parking space, walk to the building and locate the starting point from which the Pre-Bid Conference will begin. All bidders are strongly encouraged to attend.

Bidders may obtain Contract Documents from ARC (telephone 415-602-8577) after January 24, 2011. Bidders are responsible for purchasing their own set of Contract Documents. For information pertaining to the Contract Documents, please contact Steven Dewan (Kitchell CEM) at (650) 393-3656.

Bidders are solely responsible for the cost of preparing their Bids.

City specifically reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to reject any or all Bids; or re-bid, or to waive inconsequential defects in bidding not involving time, price or quality of the work.

This contract will be subject to the Community Workforce Agreement approved by the Berkeley City Council at their January 18, 2011 meeting. The successful bidder and all subcontractors, at any tier, will be required to sign an Agreement to be Bound before they will be eligible for award of the contract.

The successful Bidder and its Subcontractors will be required to follow the nondiscrimination requirements set forth in the Bidding Documents and to pay prevailing wage rates at the location of the Work.

Contract retention under the Contract shall be Ten Percent (10%). City will permit the successful bidder to substitute securities for any retention monies withheld to ensure performance of the contract, as set forth in Document 00520 Escrow Agreement and incorporated herein in full by this reference, in accordance with Section 22300 of the California Public Contracts Code.

City Council Votes to Utilize Local Unions

by **Sarah Mohamed**
Daily Cal Staff Writer

In an effort to create jobs for the city's unemployed, the Berkeley City Council voted unanimously at its meeting last week to require the city's most expensive construction projects to be completed by Berkeley-based and unionized labor.

For the next three years, the city will honor its agreement with the Building Trades Council of Alameda County and its affiliated union organizations to contract out 30 percent of the labor necessary to complete city construction projects valued at over \$1 million.

Unemployment currently hovers around 30 percent in many of the 28 unions currently affiliated with the Trades Council, according to secretary-treasurer Andreas Cluver. Berkeley's unemployment rate fell to 10.3 percent in December, according to preliminary figures released by the California Employment Development Department.

The contract — called a community workforce agreement or project labor agreement — will dictate wage and benefit guidelines and is effective immediately, Cluver said. He added that it will likely affect work to be done in the city's upcoming library renovation.

However, non-unionized workers may be left out of what is essentially a "private construction workforce," according to Nicole Goehring, the government affairs director of the Associated Builders and Contractors' Golden Gate Chapter, an organization of non-union laborers.

"For example, if the city has 20 to 30 general contractors bidding work, it's competitive," she said. "With the project labor agreement, that number of 20 drops down to three or four. With less people bidding, the price goes up."

If no Berkeley workers are available to complete projects provided for under the agreement, employment opportunities will move to residents of the Green Corridor — a regional association that includes the cities of Albany, Alameda, Berkeley, El Cerrito, Emeryville, Richmond, Oakland and San Leandro. If no residents of Green Corridor cities are available, county residents may be hired for such work. All of these workers must be hired through union hiring halls.

"The goal is to try to get as many Berkeley people jobs as are potentially qualified to do them — but if there's absolutely not anybody available who has the skills, then they are allowed to go to other areas," Councilmember Kriss Worthington said.

This agreement will also provide workers with apprenticeship programs designed to provide a skilled workforce, Cluver said.

"The problem is that a lot of non-union contractors are not paying prevailing wages," he said. "With a project labor agreement, you eliminate the fraud of prevailing wage violations."

Currently, contractors may hire non-union workers for less than the prevailing wages for a given trade — essentially a minimum wage — but bill the city for the prevailing wages, a violation that will be eliminated with the contract's restriction on hiring non-union workers.

The contract will be effective for three years, though city officials will meet in a little more than a year to assess the impact of changes in Berkeley's employment climate. Though the program currently only applies to projects with a price tag of more than \$1 million, that threshold may eventually be negotiated down to \$250,000.

Though it is not clear what percentage of city projects surpass the \$1 million mark, Cluver estimated that the contract will cover around 25 percent of the city's contracting jobs.

Sarah Mohamed covers city government. Contact her at smohamed@dailycal.org.

Wednesday
January 26, 2011

THE BERKELEY DAILY PLANET

THE EAST BAY'S INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Reader Commentaries

Will Library's Bamboozle Undermine the Nuclear Free Berkeley Act?

By Gene Bernardi
Tuesday January 25, 2011

An overwhelming majority of Berkeley citizens in a 1986 election approved the Nuclear Free Berkeley Act (NFBA). The Peace and Justice (P&J) Commission was established at that time to monitor the enforcement of the Act. The law states the City "shall grant no contract to any person or business which knowingly engages in work for Nuclear Weapons, unless the city council makes a specific determination that no reasonable alternative exists...". Most of the proposed contracts that have come before the P&J Commission are with the University of California (UC) which manages the Nuclear Weapons labs. In the case of UC there is almost always, if not always, a finding of "no reasonable alternative."

The question now is: Will the Berkeley Public Library (BPL) and the City Manager abide by the City Council's decision to waive the NFBA for just two years, rather than the three years requested by the Library?

History

On January 27, 2009, the Berkeley City Council was under pressure from a huge crowd of anti-nuclear public commenters demanding the Council honor the Nuclear Free Berkeley (NFBA) by denying a waiver of the Act requested by the Berkeley Public Library (BPL).

The Peace and Justice (P&J) Commission had shortly before held a hearing on the Library's waiver request and voted 7-2 to recommend denial by the City Council.

The Library Director justified the NFBA waiver request, stating that the Checkpoint check-out Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) system (installation of which was completed just a few years previous) was deteriorating and that, because it is a proprietary system, it could only be maintained by 3M, a company designated by Checkpoint.

The problem: 3M declined to sign the statement required of all City contractors that states the company is not, and does not intend to be, involved in Nuclear Weapons work or the Nuclear Fuel Cycle.

Bamboozle

At the suggestion of a recently retired Library Trustee, the Council waived the NFBA for two years, rather than allowing the three year contract requested by the BPL. The two years is either up on January 27, 2011 or March 14, 2011, March 15, 2009 being the date the contract was signed with 3M.

What's the bamboozle? The bamboozle is that, although the contract states that it will end on March 14, 2011, there is an added phrase: "The City Manager of the City may extend the term of this contract by giving written notice". Furthermore, the contract indicates that the annual amount for maintenance is \$56,305, yet the total amount of the contract is exactly three times that amount, \$168,915. Why did they include enough for three years of maintenance, when the City Council approved a waiver of the NFBA for just two years, not three?

More History

In the Fall of 2010, BPL signed a contract with Bibliotheca, a non-nuclear company, for a new RFID checkout system. On November 8, 2010, the P&J Commission wrote to Library Director Donna Corbeil requesting that it be informed of the "schedule for installation of the new RFID system, and final and complete termination of the 3M contract, such that the Library will be in compliance with the NFBA waiver deadline of two years".

Library Director Corbeil's November 23, 2010 response letter to P&J does not provide any RFID installation schedule. It does state that "on November 18, 2010, 3M representatives were notified ... that the Library has elected to allow contract # 7890 with 3M to terminate on the agreed date of Monday, March 14, 2011. Consequently, the Library will not be exercising its contractual option to extend service".

Current Upshot

What's the concern, then? The concern is that the Library has provided no information to the P&J Commission, and has not made information public, as to whether the installation of the new RFID tags in the Library's thousands of books and other media has even begun. But, even if it has, how can it be completed by March 14, 2011? The Checkpoint RFID system took about one year to install and involved using librarians, aides, and temporary employees, the latter at a cost of over \$65,000.

What is the Library going to do if the new RFID system is not fully installed in the South and West branches -- those scheduled for demolition -- and in the Central Library, by March 14, 2011? (Claremont and North are due to be closed for renovation in March, 2011.)

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Tough Love for Berkeley Libraries, and How to Handle It. Category: Editorials from The Berkeley Daily Planet

<http://www.berkeleydailyplanet.com/issue/2011-01-26/article/37183?headline=Tough-Love-for-Berkeley-Libraries-and-How-to-Handle-It>

January 26, 2011

Some Berkeleyans care a lot about their libraries. Probably, most Berkeleyans care a lot about their libraries in principle, but some care even more and care more consistently. In the latter group, in the last few years, there's been a tug of war between those who have ideas and plans for improvements in the name of progress, and those who aren't so sure that all change is really progress. They're all good people.

Last week we ran an [article](#) about the use of voter-approved bond funds to buy a "book van" to be used while the branch libraries were undergoing improvement, written by a local writer who's made no secret of his belief that the law restricts the use of such funds to long-term capital improvements, not to be used for short-term operating or equipment expenses.

This is similar to the discussion about whether bond funds can be used to demolish two of the four branch libraries when the ballot measure which was voted on didn't mention demolition (or bookmobiles.) The legal controversy over the demolitions has moved into the courts now, and it will be interesting to see how it's decided. The bookmobile question, as far as we know, has until now escaped legal scrutiny except by the lawyers in the Berkeley City Attorney's office who advise the Board of Library Trustees (BOLT) behind the scenes.

According to its page on the city's website, BOLT is "the only appointed administrative Board in the City. Members of the Board are appointed for four year terms by the City Council as a whole; one member of the Board must also be a member of the City Council." It's a very powerful body with many employees, administering a big budget coming from the city's general funds and additional special funds of various sorts, but most Berkeley citizens have little idea of what goes on there.

Two volunteer civic groups support Berkeley public libraries. One, the Berkeley Public Library Foundation says on its web site that "the mission of the Berkeley Public Library Foundation (BPLF) is to support our community's knowledge and learning by enhancing library facilities, programs, and services. " Further down the site, it says: "The Berkeley Public Library Foundation is launching a campaign to raise much-needed funds for the Claremont, North, West, and South Branch/Tool Lending branches.

It continues: "In Fall 2008, Berkeley voters passed Measure FF, which commits \$26 million to renovate, expand, and make seismic and access improvements, ensuring that the four neighborhood branch libraries continue to serve the needs of the community now and long into the future. By law, however, bond funds may not be used to fund furniture, fixtures and equipment. [No cite for this legal opinion...and not necessarily applicable to bookmobiles, of course.] . . . We are raising funds to equip and furnish the interiors—to pay for the computers, tables and chairs, furniture and equipment that are so essential to creating the libraries we want and that our community deserves."

And there's a another group as well: "The Friends of the Berkeley Public Library is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to support and expand the educational,

cultural, and outreach programs of the Library. The Friends work with library staff to build collections and to stimulate community interest in the Library.”

All in all, there's a lot of love for libraries in Berkeley, and a bit of Tough Love too. That would be SuperBOLD, Berkeleyans Organizing for Library Defense, which has an opinion commentary in this issue (and many in previous issues) regarding its criticisms of how BOLT operates, and also Concerned Library Users, the plaintiffs in the lawsuit challenging the use of bond funds for demolition, and the Library Users Association, some but not all of whose members live in Berkeley.

After last week's article about the bookmobile appeared, I got a couple of angry letters, not for publication, from old friends, both civic activists who have devoted many years of unpaid service to the Library, who thought it was grossly inappropriate for the Planet to publish it. One referred scathingly to “the out-of-town lawsuit about the demolitions” as justification for the quoted library administrator's evasive responses to the writer's questions. He suggested that we should instead be reporting on the millions of dollars UC has spent building temporary quarters for its athletic programs. The other was so outraged that she cancelled her (free) subscription to the Planet's email updates.

I offered both of them as much space as they wanted to express their opinions online, but so far both have declined. Nevertheless, their letters raise some important points which deserve answers.

Here's a cleaned-up version of what I told them:

First, I'd love to have someone volunteer to cover the bottomless pit of scandal re UC's athletic finances, in Strawberry Canyon and elsewhere. We're mostly dependent on volunteer reporters these days, though you may remember we expended lots of time and money on UC's sins in the past. But so far no one has offered.

Second, the reason it looked like the library director was stonewalling in the bookmobile story is because she WAS stonewalling. The writer submitted a perfectly reasonable list of questions couched in ordinary language about matters which ought to be in public discussion, and she chose to reply with legalistic bureaucratic mumbojumbo. He didn't make a California Public Records Act request, and yet she responded as if he had. This is what makes the public suspicious, and it undermines support for the library.

Perhaps she was ill-advised by some lawyer--it's been known to happen. Since my Bar card is thirty years out of date I can't judge that.

Re outside agitators: I know the lawsuit is not "out-of-town" because the quoted spokesperson for Concerned Library Users is a near neighbor of mine and she bends my ear about it every time she catches me on College Avenue. (She also told me she supports the bookmobile.)

I also know that Peter Warfield, frequent spokesperson for the Library Users Association, lives in San Francisco, but he as well as many Berkeleyans are part of a general crusade throughout the Bay Area and elsewhere against changes to libraries which are perceived as "pro-technology" and "anti-book". (See Nicholson Baker's superb book on this general topic.) I agree with some of their points, disagree with others, but it's important to hear them out.

And both Berkeley and the rest of the world are well-supplied with people, including me, who just don't like to see buildings which can be re-used torn down, period. Perhaps even regardless of architectural significance, on environmental grounds alone: the

greenest building is the one which already exists. Again, you don't have to agree with them, but they have a legitimate point of view which deserves an airing. That's where many library critics are coming from these days, in Berkeley, in San Francisco and elsewhere.

As far as which funding pocket the book van came out of, that's a legitimate question too, in the minds of the local equivalents of "deficit hawks". Many of them believe that bond funds should only be used for long-term capital improvements, that short-lived purchases like vans should come out of operating funds, and I think that's what the writer of the article said.

Finally, anyone who cares about the library should be aware that its governance has, since I've been paying attention, frequently fallen beneath the standard of disclosure that I expect as a journalist. I'm not sure why that should be the case, but little attention seems to be paid by the library's board and especially by staff to "the public's right to know". I spent far too many hours in the 7 years I was on the Landmarks Preservation Commission reviewing library plans of various sorts that turned out never to happen the way they were described to the LPC.

Nevertheless, in our eight years on this job we have always offered spokespeople for whatever is the Library's current official position as much opinion space in the Planet as they choose to use, though oddly enough that's turned out to be very little. We now, out of necessity, have a policy of allowing engaged citizens to report news of events from their own point of view, as long as they disclose their opinion, which the writer of the bookmobile article has always scrupulously done.

I hate to sound, once again, like an old-time liberal, but the best remedy for speech you don't like is more speech. If you disagree with what you read here, have at it, and we'll happily publish what you think.

And as long as additional funding from the public, whether in the form of taxes, bonds, or voluntary contributions, is needed by Berkeley libraries (which looks like a permanent state of affairs) critics should be dealt with respectfully and patiently, if at all possible. My elementary school teacher used to require us to say "thank you" when we were criticized—an old-fashioned idea, but it still has merit. Remember, they wouldn't bother to criticize you if they didn't love you. Really.

The Daily Californian Online

City Proceeds With Plans to Renovate Public Library Branches Following Settlement

By [True Shields](#)

Daily Cal Staff Writer

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Category: [News](#) > [Development and Capital Projects](#)

The city of Berkeley will move forward with its renovation of the Claremont and North branches of the Berkeley Public Library following months of debate and a partial settlement with a group of community members who took issue with the city's plans to demolish the system's two other branches without environmental review.

Although the city will now be required to complete an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to gauge the effects of the proposed demolition of the South and West branches, the settlement does not address the pending suit against the city by the Concerned Library Users regarding the use of Measure FF funds, which the group says should not be used to demolish the buildings.

As a further result of last December's settlement, the city is currently drafting an EIR - which should be ready for approval by the end of the month - before assessing the South and West branches of the library for demolition.

"(The settlement) demonstrates that the city and the library in particular were acting unlawfully according to the zoning requirements necessary for renovations," said Peter Warfield, executive director of the Library Users Association. "The zoning ordinance ... is kind of like writing a blank check for almost anything and is inappropriate."

The settlement also provided that the city award the association \$9,000 as recompense for court fees.

City Attorney Zach Cowan could not be reached for comment as of press time.

While the city has now promised to conduct an EIR, the association - which formed in response to the city's highly contentious plans to tear down the libraries as a part of their renovation - may now look elsewhere to prevent the buildings' demolition.

According to attorney Susan Brandt-Hawley, who represents the Concerned Library Users, each of the libraries also merits inspection by the Berkeley Landmark Preservation Commission, an organization which inspects all buildings slated for demolition that are older than 40 years.

"The South and West branches had some architectural merit and require more time to look at," Councilmember Jesse Arreguin said. Arreguin had opposed the city's July decision to move ahead with the project without environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act.

However, the section of the association's lawsuit against the city regarding its proposed use of Measure FF funds - \$26 million that some contend are to be used solely for renovation, and not demolition, of the libraries - is still pending.

"We shouldn't be using voter-approved funding for projects that weren't included in the ballot measure," Arreguin said. "Even the city attorney agrees with that."

Warfield said the planned renovations would de-emphasize books in the new libraries, especially in the Claremont Branch, where shelf space is slated to increase by one linear foot, according to library documents.

"There have been a number of red herrings that have been thrown out to prevent people from thinking about the most important issues surrounding Measure FF activity," he said.

IV Information, Item E
Attachment 13
Daily California 01/26/2011

Despite the controversy surrounding the use of new library space - such as plans to remove some reference desks in all four libraries - the association remains hopeful that the city's renovations will benefit all residents.

"Everyone agrees that the library program needs must be met whether or not it is accomplished through demolition," Brandt-Hawley said. "At the end of the day, everyone wants wonderful libraries."

Tags: berkeley city council, Jesse Arreguin, Concerned Library Users, LIBRARY USErs ASSOCIATION, berkeley public library

Article Link: <http://www.dailycal.org/article/111665>

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27

10 a.m.–4 p.m.: **Plants Illustrated** in the UC Berkeley Botanical Garden. Final Day! Explore the relationship between scientific study and fine art in the Garden's second annual botanical art exhibition, held in conjunction with the Northern California Society of Botanical Artists. UC Botanical Garden, 643-2755. 200 Centennial Dr. Free with Garden admission.

10:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.: **Plants Sale**. Take advantage of great prices on inventory reductions, one-of-a-kinds, and out-of-season plants. Through January 30. UC Botanical Garden, 643-2755. 200 Centennial Dr.

10 a.m.–6 p.m.: **Portraits of Nature** an exhibit of oil paintings by Bay Area artist Ayako Harashima. On

Business Environmental Awards Application Deadline: Friday, January 28

The Business Environmental Awards is dedicated to recognizing outstanding environmental achievements in the Bay Area business community. The program's goals include celebrating the accomplishments of businesses with innovative sustainable programs; recognizing the leaders in the industry; and providing an educational forum that increases awareness and motivates all companies to adopt sustainable business practices. For more information call (650) 561-4711 and for applications go to acterra.org/programs/bea/index.html.

Coastal Art & Poetry Contest (K-12) Application Deadline: Monday, January 31

All California residents in kindergarten through 12th grade are invited to submit original art and poetry with a California coastal or California marine theme. Winners in each of five age groups will receive a \$100 gift certificate to an art supply store or bookstore. Each sponsoring teacher will receive a gift certificate for \$50 for educational materials from Acorn Naturalists. Winners and honorable mentions will win tickets to the Aquarium of the Pacific. For more information or an application form visit: coastal.ca.gov/publiced/poster/poster.html

display through February 6. Michele McKenzie, 981-6240. Berkeley Public Library Central Catalog Lobby, 2090 Kitteridge St. Free.

Noon: **Kosher Lunch**. Adults ages 65 and up are invited to enjoy delicious food, delightful company, and lively conversation! Also enjoy special presentations, teachings, sing-a-longs, and informational speakers. Every Monday and Thursday. Samantha Young, 848-0237 x148. Jewish Community Center of the East Bay, 1414 Walnut Street. \$5 for 65+, \$8 others.

5–7:30 p.m.: **Mental Health Commission**, Carol Patterson 981-5217. Mental Health Clinic, 2640 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way.

6–7:30 p.m.: **All Ages Dance Extravaganza**. Experience an evening of Jazz, African, Salsa, and Hip Hop dance performances by local youth. Light refreshments served. Special performance by Longfellow Middle School Envision Dance Troupe. Sponsored by the Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Department, 981-6700. Frances Albrier Community Center, San Pablo Park, 2800 Park St.

6 p.m.: **Opening Reception for Daniel McCormick Methods and Materials: Ecological Art in Practice**. A public program with Daniel McCormick in the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Theater, following a wine reception in the Hazel Wolf Gallery. David Brower Center, 809-0900 x116. browercenter.org. 2150 Allston Way. RSVP required. Free.

7 p.m.: **East Bay Open Circle hosts Jeannie Zandi**. Meetings include silent meditation, often a guided meditation, a short talk and exchange with those attending. eastbayopencircle.org/index.htm. Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, 841-4824. Fellowship Hall, 1924 Cedar Street. Donations requested.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 28

Noon: Lunchtime Lecture Series "**Hunger In Alameda County: The Facts, Faces, Truths, and Myths**" by Suzan Bateson, Executive Director, Alameda County

Community Food Bank. City Commons Club, 845-8055. citycommonsclub.org. Drinks at 11:20 a.m. in the Venetian Room. Lunch at 11:45 a.m. Lecture from 12:30 to 1:30. Lunch reservations required. 2315 Durant Ave. \$16.50 for lunch, no cost for lecture.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 29

10 a.m.–noon: **Freedom From Tobacco Quit Smoking Class**, Marcia Brown-Machen, 981-5330. Sessions each Saturday through February 12. Free acupuncture is available. South Berkeley Senior Center, 2939 Ellis St. Free.

9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.: **Marijuana Reform: Next Steps for California** presented by California National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws

(NORML). Join leaders of the marijuana reform movement, public officials, medical cannabis providers, patients and advocates for a post-Prop 19 conference. In the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Theater and Kinzie Room, David Brower Center, 809-0900. browercenter.org. 2150 Allston Way.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 30

11 a.m.–2 p.m.: **Floral Felt Pin Workshop** by GoGo Craft. Learn to make your own gorgeous felt flower pin inspired by the Garden's diverse and colorful collection. Space is limited, registration required. \$20, \$15 members, Cal students, and staff. UC Botanical Garden, 643-2755. 200 Centennial Dr. Free with Garden admission.

1:30 p.m.: **Book Into Film: Our Town**, Sponsored by Friends of the Library, 981-6236. berkeleypubliclibrary.org. Discussion group participants will read Wilder's play at home and then gather to watch documentary, *OT: Our Town*, together before discussing. Berkeley Public Library, 3rd Floor Community Meeting Room, 2090 Kitteridge St. Registration required. Free.

MONDAY, JANUARY 31

Noon: **Kosher Lunch**. (See January 27)

2:30–3:30 p.m.: **Council Agenda Committee**, Deanna Despain, 981-6900. Martin Luther King Jr. Civic Center, 2180 Milvia St.

5:30–7 p.m.: **City Council Special Closed Session**, Deanna Despain, 981-6900. Martin Luther King Jr. Civic Center, 2180 Milvia St.

7–9:30 p.m.: **Parks and Recreation Commission Special Meeting**, Virginia Aiello, 981-6683. James Kenney Recreation Center, 1720 8th St.

8–9:30 p.m.: **Salsa Social Dance Class**. Experienced Salsa teacher Tara Acevedo, with co-instructor Jason Ling, will guide you through a variety of moves to get you shakin'. No partner required. Every Monday through February 28. Cal International House, 642-9490. ihouse.berkeley.edu. 2299 Piedmont Ave. \$10, Free for residents.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1

6:30–7:30 p.m.: **Library Board of Trustees position available**. Learn about the position as well as library services and programs. Members of the current board and library staff will answer questions. Refreshments served. Contact City Clerk's office for more information or application. 981-6900. Berkeley Public Library, 3rd Floor Community Meeting Room, 2090 Kitteridge St.

7:30 p.m.: **The Sausan Egyptian Dance Company Ensemble's Operetta: Al Afra Al Saeeda**. Traditional Egyptian music and dance. An East Bay premiere, this was performed at the de Young Museum last spring. Cal International House, 642-9490. ihouse.berkeley.edu. 2299 Piedmont Ave. \$15 advance, \$20 door, \$10 students. Free for residents.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2

1–9:30 p.m.: **Mongolian Harmony: Bringing Mongolian Culture to the Bay Area**. Mongolia is featured in a day of academic discussion intended for a general audience, followed by a Mongolian dinner and concert. Sponsored by Inst. of East Asian Studies, Center for Buddhist Studies, I-House, and Dept of Music. Cal International House, 642-9490. ihouse.berkeley.edu. 2299 Piedmont Ave. \$10, Free for residents.

6 p.m.–8 p.m.: **Beyond Forgiveness: Reflections on Atonement Book Release Party** presented by Jossey-Bass Publishers and Metta Center for Nonviolence Education. Join author and editor Phil Cousineau and friends to honor local authors who have contributed to the book. Hazel Wolf Gallery, David Brower Center, 809-0900. browercenter.org. 2150 Allston Way.

7–10 p.m.: **Planning Commission**, Jordan Harrison, 981-7416. Old City Hall, 2147 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way

7–9 p.m.: **Human Welfare and Community Action Commission**, Leah Talley, 981-5401. South Berkeley Senior Center, 2939 Ellis St.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3

Noon: **Kosher Lunch**. (See January 27.)

7 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.: **Journey to Justice: A Benefit for the Winnemem Wintu Tribe**, a traditional Northern California Tribe struggling to restore salmon along the McCloud River and to stop the expansion of the Shasta dam. Hear from spiritual leader Caleen Sisk-Franco, with clips from a documentary of the Winnemem's recent trip to New Zealand to meet with the Maori peoples and dance for their salmon. Silent auction to follow. Hazel Wolf Gallery and Richard and Rhoda Goldman Theater, David Brower Center, 809-0900. browercenter.org. 2150 Allston Way.

7 p.m.: **Film in the Fellowship Hall: Breaking the Silence**. The Social Justice Committee of Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists presents Toshikuni Doi's award winning documentary which explores the reality of Israeli occupation and power over the Palestinians. BFFU, 841-4824. Fellowship Hall, 1924 Cedar Street.

7–9 p.m.: **Community Environmental Advisory Commission**, Nabil Al-Hadithy, 981-7461. Permit Service Center, 2118 Milvia St.

7–11 p.m.: **Landmarks Preservation Commission**, Jay Claiborne, 981-7429. North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Ave.

7:30 p.m.: **Models of Democracy in Europe: A Panel of Consul Generals from the Bay Area** presented by I-House as part of the Globalization Lecture Series. Featuring: Hon. Julian Evans, Consul General of the United Kingdom, Hon. Barbro Osher, Consul General of Sweden, Hon. Eva Voisin, Consul General of Hungary. \$10 general, \$5 Cal students and staff. Free for residents.

VACANCY ON THE BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY'S BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES




Learn more about the position and hear from current Trustees at an optional OPEN HOUSE at the Central Library on Feb. 1 at 6:30PM. Contact the library for more details at (510) 981-6195. Contact the City Clerk's Office at (510) 981-6900 for an application and supplemental questionnaire or download them from the City of Berkeley website (<http://www.cityofberkeley.info>) Under "Quick Links", select "Boards and Commissions", then select "applications".

Wednesday
February 02, 2011

Reader Commentaries

Berkeley Public Library's Interim Services : Library Lite 'BranchVan' is Really a Twig-van

By Peter Warfield
Wednesday February 02, 2011

The recent arrival of the library's new bookmobile represents a door slammed shut on expectations of first-class interim service during planned closure of branches for Measure FF-related construction. 

The Library's interim service is one very small bookmobile – the smallest of seven models that are offered by its vendor.

It is the smallest bookmobile I've ever seen.

Dubbed the "BranchVan" by the library, it would be more appropriately called the Twig Van.

Berkeley citizens and library users had every reason to expect the library administration to do what it did several years ago when the Main library closed for renovations. At that time, an interim space was fitted out in a downtown storefront just a few blocks from the Central library. The location was 2121 Allston Way. The interim service hours were extensive, including weekends and four nights a week until 9 pm.

This past might well be expected to set the example for the future, where the library plans to close two branches at a time temporarily, for two renovations and two reconstructions after demolition.

That is because the library has said nothing about interim services in its publicity for the public, including bond descriptions, booklets, and fliers. A visit to the library's website provides dead links – no information available – for "Services During Closure," that is listed under "Branch Construction Projects"

Berkeley citizens might well expect the library to provide interim service in a storefront or other fixed location for another reason: The Board of Library Trustees (BOLT), the library's governing body, never placed interim service on any agenda in the last year and a half. There only mention of bookmobile plans was at the June 9, 2010 BOLT meeting, where it was clear that Library Services Director Donna Corbeil had already made a decision to obtain a bookmobile. She presented the trustees with a decision to purchase a specific van from a specific vendor, OBS, Inc. of Canton, Ohio, at a cost "not to exceed \$83,200." There was no discussion of alternatives, or about a bookmobile's specific size or capacity. There was also no discussion of how many hours of public service one vehicle would provide per week, when shared by two closed branch locations. The library plans to work on renovations – or demolitions and replacements -- of two branches at a time. Consequently, a single bookmobile cannot provide the same open hours at each location as each branch provides now, six days a week including two evenings until 8 pm.

There are alternatives – better alternatives – to service from a single, tiny, bookmobile.

The library trustees and administration could have, and should have, discussed numerous alternatives – and they still can. Alternatives include opening interim library services in storefronts or public facilities – or renting portable structures or trailers. Such options could provide much more space than bookmobiles, as well as the ability to provide full-time service. Portables in Washington DC provided 4000-square foot

interim library-like facilities. Another option could be to park a single trailer outside each closed branch.

BPL's administration chose a bookmobile with "up to 1,500 volume capacity," while its vendor's website shows seven models with capacities ranging from 1,500 to 4,000 books, and a single trailer with a capacity of 3,000 to 6,000 books.

Why did the library choose a bookmobile with the smallest capacity of those offered?

Our contact with a national company renting construction site trailers revealed that a 32-foot trailer, could be provided parked at the curb of a library renovation site, with a wheelchair accessible ramp, at a cost of under \$10,000 for twelve months, including hauling. Each additional month would cost \$250.

For less than the cost of purchasing the tiny twig-mobile, Berkeley could provide trailers for library service at closed branches for eight years. Another plus with trailers or fixed locations: there would be no ongoing costs for gasoline or engine maintenance or tire replacement, and the entire operation could be expected to be greener than a bookmobile.

Steven Finacom, writing in the *Berkeley Daily Planet* January 19, 2011, found that the library had spoken about interim service at a March 31, 2010 community meeting. ("Library Buys temporary Bookmobile -- Paid for out of Branch Permanent Renovation Funds.")

Finacom wrote:

In further research, I found this statement by Library staff from the notes describing a March 31, 2010 Community Meeting held at the Claremont Branch Library.

(Question) "*Will there be a temporary site during the closure?*"

(Answer) "*The plan is to close two branches at a time and Claremont and North will be closed first. We would like patrons to visit the other branches that will be open, including the Central Library. South Branch is the closest branch to Claremont. The Board of Library Trustees is discussing the option of a book van to deliver holds and pick up materials in the neighborhoods of the closed branches.*"

Here is the full agenda item from the June 9, 2010 Agenda:

IV. ACTION CALENDAR

A. Contract: OBS, Inc.; for Purchase of a 2010 Model Year Explorer I Sprinter Customized

Bookvan

Recommendation: Adopt a resolution to recommend the City Council authorize the City Manager to execute a purchase order with OBS Inc. of Canton, Ohio for the acquisition of a van configured for the provision of off-site library services during the closure periods of the four branch libraries while undergoing construction related to the Measure FF funded Branch Libraries Improvement Program in an amount not to exceed \$83,200.

The Board of Library Trustees unanimously approved this action. The Minutes for that item show the following:

A. Contract: OBS, Inc.; for Purchase of a 2010 Model Year Explorer I Sprinter Customized Book Van

Sample photos provided (Attachment 12)

The Board discussed the van presented to provide mobile library services during branch closures for construction. Staff responded to questions regarding the vehicle, it will be ADA accessible, have flexibility with moveable carts to take services inside partner organizations, and due to the size it will not require a special State of CA license to operate. Director Corbeil reported that Measure FF funds can be used to purchase the vehicle with the caveat it will be used to continue providing library services when a branch is closed. Following approval by the board, staff will bring to City Council, following their approval a purchase

order will be issued and the custom vehicle will be ordered. Preliminary schedule is for late fall delivery. Staff will explore local vendors for the personalized graphics/wrap, security system and bio-diesel options. Price does not include licensing and taxes. In addition, the staff is planning for the parking of vehicle, ideally loading and unloading at the Central Library Bancroft Street entrance can be secured. The item as presented includes a recommendation to City Council to approve changing the yellow zone on Bancroft south of the library to a gray zone for library parking only.

R10-050 Moved by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee Henry-Golphin, to adopt a resolution to recommend the City Council authorize the City Manager to execute a purchase order with OBS Inc. of Canton, Ohio for the acquisition of a van configured for the provision of off-site library services during the closure periods of the four branch libraries while undergoing construction related to the Measure FF funded Branch Libraries Improvement Program in an amount not to exceed \$83,200.

Motion passed unanimously.

And that is how BOLT decided that Berkeley will have a twig-mobile for few hours per week at each branch. The smallest available bookmobile will chug back and forth from branches to its overnight parking space and back. No storefront. No portable libraries. No single trailer at all. Just a tiny mini-bookmobile for bookloving Berkeley, a city that spends more on libraries per person than almost any other city in the country.

What should be done?

We recommend carrying out a full review of alternatives available for providing substantial interim library service. Alternatives to be considered include obtaining use of storefronts and other fixed spaces; portable structures; trailers; and larger bookmobiles than the one purchased. The library should do a thorough cost and benefit analysis, including ongoing operational costs. For a bookmobile, costs include gasoline, engine maintenance, tire replacement, etc.; for storefronts, rental and temporary fitting out for library services.

Only after making such an analysis publicly, and with public input, should BOLT decide on a course of action that provides reasonable interim service for Berkeley's generously-funded, much-used, and much-appreciated, public libraries.

Peter Warfield is Executive Director of Library Users Association. He can be reached at libraryusers2004@yahoo.com.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3
7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.: **Journey to Justice: A Benefit for the Winnemem Wintu Tribe**, a traditional Northern California Tribe struggling to restore salmon along the McCloud River and to stop the expansion of the Shasta dam. Hear from spiritual leader Caleen Sisk-Franco, with clips from a documentary of the Winnemem's recent trip to New Zealand to meet with the Maori peoples and dance for their salmon. Silent auction to follow. Hazel Wolf Gallery and Richard and Rhoda Goldman Theater, David Brower Center, 809-0900. browercenter.org. 2150 Allston Way.

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4
Noon: Luncheon Lecture Series **"How To Deal Effectively With Insurance Companies"** by Amy Bach, Attorney and Executive Director, United Policy Holders. City Commons Club, 845-8055. citycommonsclub.org. Drinks at 11:20 a.m. in the Venetian Room. Lunch at 11:45 a.m. Lecture from 12:30 to 1:30. Lunch reservations required. 2315 Durant Ave. \$16.50 for lunch, no cost for lecture.

3-4:30 p.m.: **Proposal Writing Basics**. Learn the key components of a proposal to a foundation or corporation including: who should sign a grant request, how to package the proposal, and what to do if your proposal is turned down. foundationcenter.org. 981-6151. Berkeley Public Library, 2090 Kitteridge St. Registration required. Free.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5
9 a.m.-noon: **Sick Plant Clinic** at the Botanical Garden. Find out which diseases all your plants. Entomologists are available to identify pests that may be living in

your plants too! Please put plants and disease samples in containers or bags before entering the Garden. UC Botanical Garden, 643-2755. 200 Centennial Dr. Free.

10 a.m.-noon: **Freedom From Tobacco Quit Smoking Class**, Marcia Brown-Machen, 981-5330. Sessions each Saturday through February 12. Free acupuncture is available. South Berkeley Senior Center, 2939 Ellis St. Free.

1 p.m.: **Flying High Planetarium Program** at Lawrence Hall of Science. Also, **Moons of the So-**

director/conductor David Ramadanoff, 103 young musicians, and the two winners of the orchestra's 2011 Concerto Competition. ypsomusic.net. 849-9776. First Congregational Church of Berkeley, 2345 Channing Way. \$15 general, \$12 seniors and students.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6
10 a.m.: **Lunar New Year 2011 Celebration Parade and Performance**. Acrobatics, dance, music and delicious Asian food. Parade begins at noon. solanostroll.org. 527-5358. Albany Twin Theater, 115 Solano Ave, Albany. Free.



Paul Light

The experts at the UC Berkeley Botanical Garden will do forensic work on your ailing plants at their monthly sick plant clinic on Saturday, February 5. The next day (Sunday, February 6), youngsters can learn about edible botanicals and make cards to take home at the Valentine's Day High Tea for Kids.

lar System at 2p.m. and **Constellations Tonight** at 3 p.m. LHS, 642-5132, lawrencehallofscience.org. Centennial Drive. \$4.

2 p.m.: **"I Can't Dance" Dance Classes**. This is a three-session series designed for those who have felt awkward on the dance floor. Learn simple moves and turns that will get you through a range of music for any occasion. Three-class series, also on Feb 19 and 26. Pre-registration required. Shirley Adams, (404) 245-7977. comeoutdancing.com. Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists Education building, 1606 Bonita Ave. Sliding scale: \$30-\$60 for three-class series.

1-2:30 p.m.: **Valentine's Day High Tea for Kids** at the Botanical Garden. Enjoy a special celebration of herbs and flowers at this afternoon tea party. Kids will learn about fragrant edibles, make fresh teas and herb finger sandwiches. They will also make Valentines from pressed botanicals to take home. Registration required. UC Botanical Garden, 643-2755. 200 Centennial Dr. \$20, \$17 members for one adult and one child, \$10 each additional child or adult per family.

1 p.m.: **Planetarium Program** at Lawrence Hall of Science (see Feb 5).

8 p.m.: **Young People's Symphony Orchestra 2011 Concerto Concert** (see Feb 5).

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7
2:30-3:30 p.m.: **Council Agenda Committee**, Deanna Despain, 981-6900. Martin Luther King Jr. Civic Center, 2180 Milvia St.

7-10 p.m.: **Personnel Board**, David W. Hodgkins, 981-6800. Permit Service Center, 2118 Milvia St.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8
11:15 a.m.-noon: **Little Scientist: Eggs, Eggs Everywhere**. This four-week program will introduce kids ages 3 to 5 to science using hands-on activities, dramatic play, and stories. Berkeley

6:30-8:30 p.m.: **Board of Library Trustees**, Donna Corbeil, 981-6195. Berkeley Public Library, South Branch, 1901 Russell St.

7 p.m.: **New to DVD**, screening *Lebanon*. Post-film discussion facilitated by George Porter. 848-0237. Jewish Community Center, 1414 Walnut St. Donations welcome.

7-9 p.m.: **Human Welfare and Community Action Commission**, Leah Talley, 981-5401. South Berkeley Senior Center, 2939 Ellis St.

7-9 p.m.: **Commission on the Status of Women Special Meeting**, Tasha Tervalon, 981-5347. North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Ave.

7-10 p.m.: **Waterfront Commission**, John Mann, 981-6740. Berkeley Marina, 201 University Ave.

7-10 p.m.: **Police Review Commission**, Victoria Urbi, 981-4950. South Berkeley Senior Center, 2939 Ellis St.

7:30 p.m.: **School Board**, Contact BUSD, 644-6348. Council Chambers, 2134 Martin Luther King Jr. Way.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10
Noon: **Kosher Lunch**. Adults ages 65 and up are invited to enjoy delicious food, delightful company, and lively conversation! Also enjoy special presentations, teachings, sing-a-longs, and informational speakers. Every Monday and Thursday. Samantha Young, 848-0237 x148. Jewish Community Center of the East Bay, 1414 Walnut Street. \$5 for 65+, \$8 others.

7-11 p.m.: **Zoning Adjustments Board**, Steven Buckley, 981-7430. Council Chambers, 2134 Martin Luther King Jr. Way.

Public Library, 981.6223. 2090 Kitteridge St. Registration required. Free.

7-11:30 p.m.: **City Council Meeting**, Deanna Despain, 981-6900. Council Chambers, 2134 Martin Luther King Jr Way.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9
11 a.m.: **Garden Strollers**: this 45 minute tour will guide you around the UC Berkeley Botanical Garden and end on the lawn for gentle play and snacks (bring your own). Children must be in a stroller or carrier for the tour portion. UC Botanical Garden, 643-2755. 200 Centennial Dr. Free with garden admission.



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