



## Community Town Hall Meeting Reporting Form

Library and date of meeting: WEST, July 16, 2014

Number of people in attendance: 16

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**Exercise #1:** *What is the single most important contribution the library makes to our community today?*

### Top responses:

- Institutional free availability of books, DVDs, internet, tools, literacy program, computers
- Supports and responds to the needs of the community through many resources
- The library is the main, if not **only**, institution that is open to and **welcomes** everyone in the community: young/old, people of different cultural, racial, socioeconomic backgrounds, etc.
- To define the community as a central focus for all residents, to meet and interact in a positive learning environment
- Youth: a place for kids to come and have access to books & reading

### All responses:

- Being an accessible democratic portal to information
- Free public access for average people to informational media
- Providing resources for any individual to become self educated on any subject which they wish to do so
- Supports the needs of the specific community through a multiplicity of appropriate resources
- Provides access to free materials and services for information, education and entertainment
- Providing access to sources of information, education and entertainment
- Levels the playing field for those adults and children who do not have library resources at home
- Access to books not held in our local branches – Link+ (free)
- Local book access
- I-net service/access (free)
- Computer access (free)
- Computers to get on the web
- Reading opportunities for young people (read by 2<sup>nd</sup> grade or your road is very difficult)
- Community meeting space
- Place for community to meet
- Libraries are: central foci/communal civic
- To define the community as central focus for all residents, cutting across / including all demographics, to meet interact in a positive creative learning environment
- The main branch should be on the city square, the branches should be full of kids doing homework – and discussing it, and librarians shooshing
- The presence of library indicates the well-being of a neighborhood/community
- Library reflects consciousness of community
- Defines/represents community
- Public face of city hall

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**Exercise #2:** *What one thing could the library do to better serve the community?*

**Table consensus items:**

- Working more closely together with local schools, especially outreach for middle through high schoolers
- Publicize and increase awareness of the services and resources we have to offer:  
meeting/study rooms; e-books; services
- Building community awareness of library resources, how to access and use them
- Better marketing

**Individual items:**

- Better outreach to community
- Increase awareness of what it has to offer
- Better marketing
- Better marketing & feedback mechanisms
- Better marketing of services and programs
- Let people know what is happening in the library – the library provides many services and programs that are not well publicized – or that community members are not aware of
- Communicate its value and its services to everyone
- Do more outreach to teenagers with innovative programming
- Dovetail with local schools
- Partnerships with community entities, e.g.: schools (education); businesses (job development); non-profits (education/entertainment)
- Educational programming
- Be open even more hours
- Hours
- Better easier access to e-books, multimedia and all on-line materials
- Make Link+ easier on the webpage
- Instructions on how to fully use library resources – safety and operation of power tools, Link+
- Legal research
- Respond to the unique characteristics that make up individual communities in Berkeley i.e. different age groups (millennial), populations that speak other languages, to reflect the specific nature of the neighborhood libraries in the community in which they exist
- Diversity training
- Adapt to changing social environment and technologies themselves being driven by technology in ways that keep it a vibrant relevant institution
- Provide a clean, attractive well-maintained space to house library materials and people
- Invite more types of public usage and gathering (“I’m going to the meeting at the library”)
- Polling place