New Glen Park Branch Library
Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Why are we building a new branch library?
A. In November 2000, the voters overwhelmingly passed a bond measure to upgrade San Francisco's branch library system. One of the bond's priorities is to replace four branches currently housed in leased facilities with City-owned buildings. Glen Park is the smallest branch in the San Francisco Public Library system and is located in a leased facility.

Q. What will be some of the benefits of the new branch?
- Expanded collections of books, magazines, CDs, videos, DVDs & other materials
- Program room for after school homework, story time, and library & community programs
- Flexible design to accommodate future technologies
- Expanded children's area
- More functional staff work areas
- Space to accommodate school visits
- A designated teen area
- New furniture
- Clearer signage
- More computers
- New self-check machines
- A variety of seating choices
- Wireless (Wi-Fi) access to the internet
- Natural light
- Public art

Q. How big will the new branch library be?
A. The new branch will be approximately 7,200 square feet as compared to the current leased facility of about 1,500 square feet.

Q. Will the amount of books increase?
A. Yes. The materials (books, CDs, DVDs, videos, books on tape, etc.) collection will expand from approximately 20,200 items to 34,000 items.

Q. Where will the new branch library be located?
A. The branch will be on the second floor of the new Glen Park Marketplace on Diamond Street at Wilder. The Glen Park Marketplace is a multi-use building with a library, housing units and a grocery store. At street level, there will be a lobby with an elevator and stairs for the new branch.

Q. When will it be built?
A. The new Glen Park Branch Library will open on October 13, 2007.

Q. How was the site chosen?
A. The Library, working with the community, identified 3-5 potential sites for a new branch, which were narrowed down to 3 possibilities: the BART parking lot, which would be mixed use and require a prolonged planning process with many public agencies; the Kelly Building, which was not for sale; and the current site. The current space allows the Library to use their limited funds to build an 8,500 square foot branch as opposed to the original plan for a 6,000 square foot branch.

Q. Will the branch library close during construction?
A. There will be a short disruption of service while the staff moves out of the existing branch and transfers the books and materials to the new building.

Q. Who are the architects?
A. The architect for the interior design of the new branch is the firm of Tom Eliot Fisch and the Bureau of Architecture is overseeing the interior construction. The architect for the Glen Park Marketplace is Sternberg Benjamin Architects Inc.

Q. What happens to the existing furniture?
A. All of the furniture will be replaced. The Library has developed interior design guidelines to help the architects and staff choose appropriate furniture based on functionality, ergonomics, durability, maintenance, flexibility, and sustainability.

Q. Is the community involved in the design process?
A. Yes. A survey was conducted in February 2002, where over 200 people gave their opinion about materials, facilities, and services at the branch. Four community meetings were held between April 2001 and June 2002 to discuss sites and conceptual designs. The plans were also discussed in numerous hearings regarding the property acquisition and the building owner's Planning Department approvals. On April 13, 2004, the Library presented their latest design to the community.

Q. Where does the money come from to build the branch?
A. In November 2000, the voters overwhelmingly passed a bond measure for $106 million to upgrade San Francisco's branch library system. While the bond pays for a significant portion of the costs, it does not pay for furniture, fixtures, and equipment. The Friends of the San Francisco Public Library will raise $16 million from private donations to pay for these costs. Call (415) 626-7512 x 103 to help with the Friends campaign.

Q. How much will it cost for the new Glen Park Branch Library?
A. The project has a total budget of $5.5 million for site acquisition, interior construction costs, permits, fees and consultant services. All designs are subject to change in order to meet this fixed budget limit.

Q. How do I find out more information about the new branch?
A. Contact the Branch Library Improvement Program at (415) 557-4354, check www.sfpl.org, or email BLIP@sfpl.org.