BRANCH LIBRARY
IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

City & County of San Francisco
Branch Library Improvement Program

Golden Gate Valley Branch Library Renovation
Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What are the plans for the branch?
A. The project provides for a complete renovation including seismic strengthening, accessibility improvements, energy-efficiency and technology upgrades. The historic integrity of this 1917 Carnegie will be maintained and the building restored to its original grandeur. A small expansion at the rear is planned to accommodate an elevator.

Q. What will be some of the benefits of the renovated branch?
- Seismic strengthening
- Accessible entry
- A designated Teen Area
- Renovated program room for library and community programs
- Fully accessible restrooms
- Quiet adult reading area
- A safe accessible elevator
- Accessible after hours book drop
- Infrastructure to provide modern technologies and flexibility for the future
- Improved Children's Area
- Better lighting
- New and restored furniture
- Clearer signage
- More computers with access to the Internet and library online resources
- Restored historic features such as ceilings, and woodwork
- Express checkout machines
- Wireless (Wi-Fi) access to the internet
- Comfortable seating and variety of seating choices
- Improved heating and ventilation
- Green Building (LEED Silver)

Q. When will the branch be closed and for how long?
A. The branch is scheduled to close for construction in fall 2009 and will re-open in 2011. During renovation, library services will be provided by holding programs at neighborhood schools and community centers and by bookmobile service. Closing may be delayed due to design issues, complications arising from the bidding, contracting or permit process, or other matters.

Q. Who are the architects?
A. The team of Tom Eliot Fisch and Paulett Taggart Architects.

Q. Will the amount of books and seating remain the same?
A. The collection (books, CDs, DVDs, books on tape, etc.) size will remain the same and materials will be easier to find on new shelves in an improved layout.

Q. What happens to the existing furniture?
A. Historic pieces will be restored, and some of the furniture will be replaced. The Library has developed interior design guidelines to help the architects and staff choose or restore appropriate furniture based on functionality, ergonomics, durability, maintenance, flexibility, sustainability, as well as the architectural period.

Q. Is the community involved in the design process?
A. Yes. A community needs assessment was conducted, that included interviews with community stakeholders about materials, facilities, and services and a community survey analysis. Two community meetings were held at the branch (August & December 2008) to discuss services and designs. The Library Commission will hold a public Peer Review on December 4th where an independent architect and a library professional will review the design. As the design process moves forward, the Library will hold additional meetings.

Q. Is the building an historic Landmark?
A. The building has been nominated for Landmark status. On October 15, 2008, the architects made an informational presentation before the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board. The renovation plans conform to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation & Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings.

Q. How much will it cost and where does the money come from to renovate the branch?
A. In March 2007, the Library Commission increased the budget of the Golden Gate Valley project from $5 million to $9.6 million. Funds will come from the November 2000 library bond measure and the passage of Proposition D. All designs are subject to change in order to meet the fixed budget limit.

Q. Are there other funds that need to be raised?
A. Yes, the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library are raising funds from private donations for new furniture, fixtures, and equipment for the branch library. For information on the neighborhood capital campaign, call (415) 626-7512 ext. 103.

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

Building better libraries for stronger communities.