

planner Tim Frye, will be expected to see the project through to adoption of the context statement by the Landmarks Board and recordation with the State Office of Historic Preservation. The task will include completing Department of Parks & Recreation survey forms for each existing building.

Although it is possible to quibble with some details, the San Francisco Unified School District overall has not been a poor steward of these outstanding resources. However, with tightening fiscal restraints and declining enrollment, there is concern that school property declared surplus could suffer from neglect or fall to development pressure. Clearly identifying these important structures and establishing the basis for their significance is an important first step in ensuring their preservation, whether they remain in public ownership turned to other civic uses or are adapted for entirely new uses in the private sector.

Planning staff have indicated the school district is not opposed to working with the department to preserve schools and perhaps designate some as landmarks.

NOE VALLEY LIBRARY REOPENS



Photo: David Wakely

A large crowd of Noe Valley residents gathered at the doors of the Sally Brunn Branch Library on March 8, eager to view their beloved library once again following a two-year closure for construction. After a ritual performance by Chinese lion dancers to drive off evil spirits and ensure good fortune, a bevy of civic and political leaders led the public into the building.



Photo: David Wakely

Designed by consulting city architect John Reid, Jr., the facility at 451 Jersey Street first opened in 1916 as the Noe Valley Branch Library. It is one of seven neighborhood libraries built with a Carnegie grant between 1914 and 1921. In 1992, the City renamed the branch in memory of popular pro-library neighborhood advocate Sally Brunn.

Following the example of Ms. Brunn, the Noe Valley community took an active role in the rehabilitation design process. Planning began in 2000 with community workshops to study programming and assure funding for the needed library improvements. Carey & Co. Inc. took up the job as project architect in 2003 and presided over charrettes and meetings in the community that continued through to completion of the work.

On reentering the building, the public found its familiar historic character intact, along with many upgrades. These include a new elevator, new lighting, accessible restrooms, WiFi, a designated teen area and improved children's section. A voter-approved bond issue funded the \$5.7 million bricks-and-mortar project, while Friends of the San Francisco Public Library, working with the neighborhood and the Noe Valley Library Campaign Committee, raised an additional \$200,000 toward new

furnishings, fixtures and equipment.

In addition to improved facilities, the building received a complete seismic upgrade that should help ensure the library continues to serve its community for at least another ninety-two years. According to project manager Nancy Goldenberg, with Carey & Co., keeping the new structural elements hidden was a major challenge.

Gunnite—spray-applied concrete—provided lateral support at all exterior walls, extending up from new footings to the base of the roof trusses. This required removal and then reinstallation of some of the scored plaster wall finish. A steel truss diaphragm was added above the plaster ceiling and tied to the masonry walls with threaded anchors. This connection required limited removal and reconstruction (at the reading room corners) of ornamental plaster at the ceiling perimeter.

Exterior rehabilitation included the cleaning and repointing of brick and terra cotta surfaces, the reattachment of clay roofing tiles over a new waterproof membrane, and the preservation of a popular community garden at the rear of the site.

Two days after the reopening, the mayor signed an ordinance designating the Sally Brunn Branch Library a San Francisco Landmark. It joins five other Carnegies previously designated—the Mission, Chinatown (erstwhile North Beach), Sunset, Presidio and Richmond branches—leaving only the seventh, the Golden Gate Valley branch, yet to be so recognized.

—Briefly

Heritage's Issues Committee is currently reviewing projects that include the Cannery, 140 New Montgomery Street, 300 Grant Avenue, 750 Second Street and Piers 15 & 17. We will report on these in future issues of *Heritage News*.

Recent additions to the National Register of Historic Places are San Francisco State Teacher's College (55 Laguna Street), Coit Tower and the Colombo Building. All three entered the register in January.