



City & County of San Francisco Branch Library Improvement Program

Parkside Branch Library Renovation Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What are the plans for the branch?

A. The renovation priorities include making the branch seismically safe, fully accessible, and technologically updated. Both the public and staff areas will become more functional. The renovation will make the building accessible by adding an outside ramp and new public restrooms. An addition at the east side of the building will provide space needed to offset these new elements in other parts of the building.

Q. What will be some of the benefits of the renovated branch?

- Seismic strengthening
- New accessible restrooms
- Accessible entrance ramp
- A designated Teen Area
- Maximum use of natural light
- New and restored furniture, shelving, and materials displays
- Children's Area designed for children's programs, class visits, early childhood learning experiences, collection highlights, and flexibility
- 24-hour book return
- More computers with access to the internet and library online resources
- Wireless (Wi-Fi) access to the internet
- Express self-service check out stations
- Comfortable seating and a variety of seating choices for quiet reading and studying
- Infrastructure to provide modern technologies and flexibility for the future
- Clearer signage
- More functional staff work areas
- Improved heating and natural ventilation
- New landscaping
- Green Building (LEED Silver)

Q. When will the branch be closed and for how long?

A. The branch closed for construction on February 7, 2009 and will re-open in 2010. During the renovation, library services will be provided by holding storytimes at the Taraval Police Station and by bookmobile service at the corner of 24th Avenue and Santiago Street.

Q. Who are the architects?

A. Thomas Hacker Architects of Portland, Oregon and Karin Payson A+D of San Francisco.

Q. Who are the general contractors?

A. L.C. General Engineering & Construction of San Francisco. They are the same firm who renovated the historic Noe Valley Branch Library.

Q. Will the amount of books increase?

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. Much of the furniture will be restored and some 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, sustainability, as well as the architectural period.

Q. Was the community involved in the design process?

A. Yes. Planning for the Parkside renovation began in 2002. A survey was conducted where 611 people gave their opinion about materials, facilities, and services at the branch. Three community meetings were held at the branch (September 2002, May 2003 & December 2008) to discuss survey results, solicit design ideas, and get input on design plans. In addition, in January 2008, the Library Commission held a public Peer Review where an independent architect and a library professional reviewed the design.

Q. Where does the money come from to renovate the branch?

A. In November 2000, the voters overwhelmingly passed a bond measure for \$106 million to upgrade San Francisco's branch library system. The bond's priorities are to reduce seismic risk, meet modern technological needs and current code requirements, comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and provide spaces that are responsive to current services, yet flexible enough to meet future needs. In addition, 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 ext. 101 to help with the Friends campaign.

Q. How much does it cost to renovate the Parkside branch?

A. The project has a budget of \$5 million to renovate the existing building, not including furniture and equipment. All designs are subject to change in order to meet this fixed budget limit.

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.

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