



## City & County of San Francisco Branch Library Improvement Program

### New Visitacion Valley Branch Library Frequently Asked Questions

**Q. Why are we building a new branch?**

A. We voted to renovate and build new branch libraries across the City – it's happening! One of the priorities of the November 2000 bond measure is to replace four branches currently housed in leased facilities with City-owned buildings. The Visitacion Valley branch is in a leased storefront.

**Q. Where will the new branch be located?**

A. The Library purchased the Super Fair Market property at the corner of Leland and Rutland to build a new branch.

**Q. What are the current plans for the new branch?**

A. After a series of several community meetings, plans for a new library were designed. Key features of the new branch include:

- Stand alone library, approximately 8,500 square feet
- ADA accessible
- Corner entrance with prominent design to give a civic presence to the building
- Service desk with sight lines to all areas of the library
- Children, teens, and adults separated for privacy
- New program room accessible after hours for community use
- Study room to allow space for quiet independent study
- Windows to provide lighting and natural ventilation to all areas of library
- Courtyards available for outside library programming
- Staff area organized for the efficient handling of returned materials
- Flexible design to accommodate future uses
- Comfortable reading areas
- Space for more books and other materials
- More computers
- Express self-checkout machines
- Accessible restrooms for public and staff
- Wireless (Wi-Fi) access to the internet
- Green Building features (LEED Silver equivalent)

**Q. When will it be built?**

A. Demolition of the existing store and construction of the new branch began in May 2009. The new branch is scheduled to open in early 2011. Construction may be delayed due to design issues, complications arising from the bidding, contracting or permit process, or other matters.

**Q. Will there be Public Art?**

A. Yes. The Arts Commission established a Community Artist Selection Panel who through a public process selected the artist team Mark Grieve and Ilana Spector. They will create a suspended sculpture composed of recycled bicycle gears and steel hoops for the interior of the new library.

**Q. Who are the architects?**

A. Bureau of Architecture's Library Design Studio, Department of Public Works, City & County of San Francisco. The lead architect also designed the Visitacion Valley Playground Clubhouse on Leland Avenue.

**Q. Will the branch library close during construction?**

A. No. The current branch will not close until the new one is completed. There may be a short disruption of service while books and materials are transferred to the new building.

**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. Nine community meetings were held (March 2001, June 2001, October 2002, August 2003, September 2003, December 2003, August 2005, October 2007 & July 2008) to discuss sites, services and designs. The plans were also discussed at local organizations meetings, at hearings regarding the property acquisition and state funding application, at Library Commission meetings, and during a public design competition to choose the architect team.

**Q. Where does the money come from to build the new branch?**

A. On March 1, 2007, the Library Commission voted to increase the budget of the Visitacion Valley project from \$5.9 million to \$11.4 million in order to build a larger branch than was originally planned. Funds for the Visitacion Valley project are expected to come from the November 2000 bond measure, developers fees, and rents from the existing store.

**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 Library Campaign, call (415) 626-7512 ext. 103.

**Q. How do I find out more information?**

A. Ask your Branch Manager, check [www.sfpl.org](http://www.sfpl.org), call the Branch Library Improvement Program at (415) 557-4354, or email [BLIP@sfpl.org](mailto:BLIP@sfpl.org).

*Building better libraries for stronger communities.*