

2009

was a year of possibilities and challenges for Berkeley Public Library. We are delighted about the future direction of our neighborhood Branch Libraries. Community participation in this process is important to us. We have invited the community to share their ideas as we design more welcoming and more sustainable spaces, creating a green future.

One of the most important changes will be new and improved spaces for families, teens, and children in each Branch. Among the improvements planned are new or renovated, attractive, accessible, and vital multipurpose spaces in every Branch, used by staff, neighborhood associations, and other community groups for programs and meetings. Our renovated and expanded Branch Libraries will be enhanced and upgraded to provide better access to the resources needed to search for jobs, learn a new skill, and make important life decisions.

While the tightening operating budget of the Library has required some adjustments in services, we remain absolutely committed to fulfilling the community's most important needs. Usage in every area of the Library increased over the past year, and we expect this trend to continue. The Branch Renovation Projects are underway, and with the community's continuing support we will create a much improved Berkeley Public Library, resulting in modern and welcoming facilities for all in the exciting years to come.

— Donna Corbeil
Director of Library Services

Board of Library Trustees

The five-member Board, appointed by the City Council, is charged with management and governance of the Library. The Board meets monthly to formulate major policies and long-range plans for the Library. Members serve four-year terms.

Darryl Moore, City Councilmember and Chair
Carolyn Henry Golphin, Vice Chair
Winston Burton
Susan Kupfer
Terry Powell

www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org/about_the_library/bolt/bolt.php

Friends of the Library

The Friends of the Library is a volunteer community organization that supports the Library by funding programs, including the summer reading program for children, lunchtime concerts, Berkeley history lectures, and author talks, as well as staff recognition and education activities. The Friends raise funds by selling quality donated books at its two bookstores — in the Central Library lobby, and on Channing Way.

Diane Davenport, President, Board of Directors
www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org/about_the_library/support_the_library.php

Berkeley Public Library Foundation

The mission of the Berkeley Public Library Foundation is "...to support our community's knowledge and learning by enhancing library facilities, programs, and services." With the passage of Measure FF, the Library Foundation Board launched a campaign to raise over \$3 million to provide for the furniture, computers, and additional needed items for the four Branch Libraries.

The Foundation celebrates the Bay Area's vibrant literary community and raises funds through the Annual Authors Dinner.

Christopher Adams, President, Board of Directors
David Snyder, Development Director

www.bplf.org

www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org
510/981-6100

BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT 2009

Statistical Highlights

- During Fiscal Year (FY) 2009, Berkeley's five Public Libraries welcomed 1,405,311 visits, a 5% increase over the past two years — enough people to fill Berkeley's Memorial Stadium twenty times.
- Circulation of materials from the Library's collections continues to rise. 1,951,032 items were borrowed by 95,275 Library users in the past year — over 20 check-outs per patron. Since 2007, circulation has increased by over 21%!
- The Library's collections are popular and, better yet, delivered upon request directly to users' most convenient Library location. Last year, users reserved and received 189,811 books and other items — 29% more than the previous year!
- Library users took advantage of the incredible wealth of electronic resources at Berkeley Public Library's e-branch. During FY 2009, berkeleypubliclibrary.org, the Library's online presence, had an amazing 1,033,375 hits, viewing a total of 1,693,541 distinct pages.
- Users logged on to the Library's public-access computers for roughly 180,000 sessions in FY 2009. With 72 computers inside our 5 Library buildings, and ongoing weekly beginning computer classes at Central, the Library helped bridge the persistent digital divide for those without home computers.
- The Library served as a valuable resource for weathering the tough economy. Thousands took advantage of our online resources to help build their résumés and find jobs, including RefUSA, a Yellow Pages-type listing of businesses, and LearnATest, for those preparing to take job tests. Many used our free public access computers to search for jobs and fill out online job applications, and over 650 people attended Library programs on starting small businesses and job-finding.
- Berkeley Reads, the Library's adult literacy program helped over 200 members of our community improve their basic reading and writing skills and change their lives, with the assistance of an amazing 188 trained volunteer tutors.



Learn Cat's Cradle at South



The Knitting Hour at North



Teen Drawing Club at West

Services and Programs

A host of fascinating cultural, literary, and artistic events took place at the Branch and Central Libraries this past year, enjoyed by over 37,976 persons. People of all ages make attending Library events part of their life! Most of these wonderful events would not have been possible without the support and devotion of the Friends of the Berkeley Public Library, who provided grants totaling \$92,122 for program support.

- The Junius Courtney Big Band ushered in the Downtown MusicFest to the Central Library's grand spaces, continuing the Library's ongoing participation in this community festival.
- Folksinger Gary Lapow celebrated the American worker to a large audience at Central in September.
- Local musicians Shirley Kazuyo Muramoto and Brian Mitsuhiro Wong played traditional Japanese koto music, in honor of Asian Pacific Islander Month.
- Patrons celebrated Bay Area National Dance Week with a salsa lesson in the Historic Lobby at Central, taught by professional Danceasy instructor Gale Robinson.
- The Library's close relationship with the Berkeley City Opera continued with two live concerts featuring highlights of Offenbach's *The Tales of Hoffmann* and Douglas Moore's *The Ballad of Baby Doe*.
- Best-selling novelist Colson Whitehead presented and signed his newest novel, *Sag Harbor*, in this collaboration between Berkeley Arts & Letters and the Library.
- Audiobook star performer Wanda McCaddon spoke about how to read books aloud, discussed the Bay Area's rich history of oral literature, and talked about her life as an actress.
- The nationally-renowned writer Dave Zirin — known for mixing sports and politics — presented his book, *A People's History of Sports in the United States*, to a standing-room only crowd at Central.
- The Library's ongoing series of Chinese cultural lectures, highlighting literature, cinema, and the martial arts, brought overflowing crowds to the Library. Over 100 people attended *Zen and Kung Fu*, a Chinese/English bilingual workshop with Shaolin Temple USA.
- The much-loved *Café Literario* series of lectures and discussions of books in Spanish continued at West Branch, sponsored by the Friends of the Library.



Playreaders at Central



The Puppet Company at Claremont

Budget Summary

Of the Library's several revenue sources that fund its day-to-day operations, the largest is the Library Tax, a special assessment on local property taxes. For FY 2009 the assessment increased by 4.29%, the per capita personal income growth factor for California. Additional revenue sources

include grants, fines and fees, monetary gifts, donations, and awards from the California State Library.

Measure FF bond funds were considered as part of FY 2009 budget development (not included in table below). A bond sale of \$10M occurred in this period to fund Branch Library capital improvements. The April sale yielded proceeds of \$9.9M (net of issuance costs).

Fiscal Year 2009 (July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009) Year-end report (Library Tax)

final total revenues	\$13,957,027
final total expenditures	\$13,661,952
ending FY 2009 fund balance	\$1,102,151

Projections: The Board of Library Trustees approved the Library's biennial budget for FY 2010 and 2011 in June 2009. The City Council also set the Library Tax rate for FY 2010 at .8015% based on the SF Bay Area Consumer Price Index. Operating deficits are expected in both years but will be offset by monies in the Fund balance resulting in a balanced budget for FY 2010 and 2011.

Branch Library capital improvements under Measure FF began in 2009. A second series of bond sales for the remaining \$16M is anticipated for mid-2010.

A Green Future for the Branch Libraries



Branch Planning Meeting at South

Keeping with Berkeley's progressive tradition, all Branch Renovation Program projects will take advantage of green technologies, striving for LEED Silver and net-zero energy buildings. We're planning for solar panels and other energy conservation technologies, and strategies for reducing water use, such as landscaping with native plants. Buildings will take advantage of natural daylight, and existing materials will be reused and historic features repaired and rebuilt where possible. Our commu-

nity can look forward to Branch Libraries that are green, safe, accessible, efficient, and more welcoming than ever before.