

CLAREMONT BRANCH LIBRARY

Your Neighborhood Library



Branch History

From 1909 to 1923, the library serving the Claremont neighborhood moved from inside the Emerson School, at Piedmont Avenue and Gerber Street, to rented storefront space at 2939 College Avenue at Ashby, and from there to 2704 Russell Street. Opening in October 1924, the Library's current home on Benvenue was designed by renowned Berkeley architect James W. Placheck, who also designed Central Library. It held 6,000 volumes and had capacity for 100 patrons. Facilities included an "adult reading room with alcove, children's room, librarian's room, work room and wash rooms." The cost to build totalled \$24,000.

In 1976 the Tudor-style building was expanded by way of an addition that added space for special collections and the children's reading room.

Central Library

(510) 981-6100

2090 Kittredge

Mon: 12 - 8

Tues: 10 - 8

Wed - Sat: 10 - 6

Sun: 1 - 5

North Branch

(510) 981-6250

1170 The Alameda (at Hopkins)

Mon - Tues: 10 - 6

Wed - Thu: 12 - 8

Fri - Sat: 10 - 6

Sun: Closed

Tool Lending Library

(510) 981-6101

2525 Eighth St. (temporary location)

Tues: 10 - 5:30

Wed - Thu: 12 - 7:30

Fri: 1 - 5:30

Sat: 10 - 5:30

Sun - Mon: Closed

South and
West Branches —
temporarily closed
for construction

Project Facts

Architects: Gould Evans/Baum Thornley

Civic Art Component: *Bookshelves* by Eric Powell

Project Cost: \$4.2 million
(construction \$3.3 million)

Scope: Restoring the interior historical elements of the 1920s building and expanding the 1970s wing.

The New Claremont offers:

- Historically sensitive restoration of the 1920s wing
- Natural light throughout
- Improved design and layout providing full ADA accessibility
- Seismic strengthening and improved fire protections
- Flex space for programming in Children's area
- More public access internet computers
- Separate teen room with dedicated computers
- Energy efficient lighting indoors and out
- Automated materials handling for faster reshelving of materials
- Attractive Bay Friendly landscaping
- Expanded bicycle parking

Welcome to Your Newly Renovated Claremont Branch Library

Renovated and improved, Claremont Branch is poised to serve future generations, with updated and state-of-the-art spaces that are inviting, efficient, and flexible.

The renovation and improvements were completed as part of the Branch Library Improvement program that began in 2009 with the passage of Measure FF in November 2008. Funds from the \$26 million bond measure will bring all four branches up to current code standards. Thanks to Measure FF, renovated branches will meet current seismic requirements, be fully ADA accessible and provide environmentally sustainable "green" operations.

Claremont Branch Library staff are excited about the renovated branch, and are looking forward to providing:

- A wealth of materials in multiple formats — books, periodicals, audiobooks, DVDs, music, CDs, and downloadable e-books
- Access to the full Berkeley Public Library collection and, through Link+, to the collections of more than 50 partner institutions
- Storytimes for babies, toddlers and preschoolers
- Early Literacy playspace for very young children
- Regular programming for children, teens, and adults
- Self-service printing, copying, and scanning
- Summer Reading Programs for children and teens



BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY
CLAREMONT BRANCH
2940 Benvenue (at Ashby), Berkeley, CA 94705 • (510) 981-6280
www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org

Branch Hours
Mon, Tue: 10 – 6
Wed, Thu: 12 – 8
Fri, Sat: 10 – 6
Sun: Closed