



BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY
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News Release
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Berkeley, California

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***Next Berkeley Public Library Board of Library Trustee Meeting on August 1st @ 7 pm:
Interviews for Board of Library Trustees Vacancy Will Continue,
Noll & Tam Architects to Make Presentation, and Decision to Fill Vacancy Will Be Made
At August 1st Special Meeting to be Held at Downtown Central Library,
In 3rd floor Community Meeting Room***

At their July 18th meeting held at South Branch Library, 1901 Russell at MLK, Jr., Way Berkeley Public Library's Board of Library Trustees began interviews for a vacancy beginning in October 2007. The meeting, preliminarily slated for July 25th, has been changed to a **Special Meeting to be held August 1st. On August 1st the interviews, also open to the public, will continue after Public Comment that begins at 7 pm in the Central Library (2090 Kittredge Street at Shattuck in downtown Berkeley) 3rd floor Community Meeting Room. The recruitment for the vacancy closed on July 1, 2007. Following the interviews, the Board will discuss candidates and make their recommendation to fill the vacancy: this process will be open to the public.**

The Board of Library Trustee's recommendation will be sent to the City Council for approval prior to October 1, 2007. Laura Anderson, who has served the maximum of two terms on the Board, will be stepping down from the Board of Library Trustees in October 2007. The Berkeley Public Library thanks Ms. Anderson for all her volunteered time and her support of the library over these past eight years.

The Trustee position will offer a wonderful opportunity for a resident of Berkeley to learn more about the library's programs and services while giving the library support and guidance. This volunteer position has a term of four years with a possible second term.

If patrons have questions about the position or process or want more information about the Berkeley Public Library, they should call (510) 981-6195, 510-548-1240 (TTY), or go to the **new Berkeley Public Library website, <http://www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org>.**

There will also be a regular Board Meeting and a presentation by Noll & Tam Architects of Berkeley, who were hired by the Berkeley Public Library to investigate possible spaces for a branch library at the Ed Roberts Campus (ERC); Noll & Tam will present three space options and a kiosk for consideration so that the Board of Library Trustees can evaluate the possibilities of a move of South Branch Library to the ERC. It is important to note that although no decision has yet been made, the Board of Library Trustees has determined that it was necessary to get more information on what spaces were available and how they might work for a branch library. Ground will be broken for the Ed Roberts Campus project, to be located at the Ashby BART Station sometime in 2008. More information and a map are available on their website at www.edrobertscampus.org.

Berkeley Public Library has continued to investigate the library needs of South and Southwest Berkeley since the completion of a needs assessment by Hatchuel Tabernik & Associates (HTA), the “**South Berkeley Community Assessment of Library Needs.**” This assessment pointed to severe programmatic limitations at the South Branch, built in 1961, in terms of space for library materials (books, DVDs, and etc.), computers, meeting space, an area for teens, and seating all of which were mentioned as priorities by respondents, and none of which would be easy to accommodate in the present location. Furthermore, respondents would prefer that the Tool Library remain at its present location and be allocated additional space. If a move is made of the South Branch Library to the ERC, the building could possibly be used for other services such as Families for Literacy, computer training, and increased space for tools and related training.

A 1996 report, **Berkeley Branch Libraries Feasibility Study**, found the South Branch, “overcrowded and difficult for patrons to use. The circulation and staff areas are inadequate in terms of both configuration and area.” The report recommends an increase in floor area, seismic upgrade, ADA and accessibility upgrade, mechanical, electrical and telecommunications upgrade and new sprinkler system. The 1996 report calls for increasing the floor area from 3,395 square feet to 8,468 square feet. No major physical upgrades have been made to the building since this report was completed; the focus has been on maintenance.

At their October 18, 2006, meeting the Board of Library Trustees appointed two Trustees, members Ying Lee and Terry Powell, to continue to study, along with staff, the library needs of South Berkeley and the issues associated with the possibility of Berkeley Public Library’s participation in the Ed Roberts Campus. Director of Library Services Donna Corbeil recently formed a Berkeley Public

Library Staff Committee with representatives from a wide variety of departments to aid with the inquiry and participate in two projects: the space planning analysis by Noll & Tam Architects of possible sites in the Ed Roberts Campus if the South Branch is moved; and the assessment of library needs of the Southwest Berkeley Community. The consulting firm HTA will begin a community assessment of library needs in the Southwest Berkeley community beginning in July 2007.

On Saturday, June 9, 2007, the Berkeley Public Library held a community forum at St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church (A.M.E.), 2024 Ashby Avenue, Berkeley, to discuss the possibility of moving South Branch Library operations to ERC as a way of addressing unmet library needs in South Berkeley. Berkeley Public Library staff Staff, Board of Library Trustee members, and others made presentations on current research, proposals, and possibilities. The presentations were followed by input from the public and general discussion. Suggestions and comments generated at this and future meetings will be included in the Board's assessment.

Community feedback and involvement is critical in fulfilling our mission to meet the needs of the community. Additional information about HTA's 2006 *South Berkeley Community Assessment of Library Needs* is available on the library's website (www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org). Board of Library Trustees Meeting minutes and agendas are posted online and at all library locations. Interested community members can send the library emails at director@berkeleypubliclibrary.org or by mail to Berkeley Public Library, Board of Library Trustees, 2090 Kittredge Street, Berkeley, California 94704. Upcoming community meeting dates will be posted at all library locations and on the library's website.

For more information, call 510-981-6195, 510-548-1240 (TTY).

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