

How has the community been involved in the study?

Thank you, for helping us with the study of branch libraries by attending meetings and completing surveys.

- Over 300 surveys were gathered and analyzed
- Community meetings were held in each branch to discuss possible options to address both physical and service related needs

What is the 2008 Branch Library Master Facility Plan?

- Physical evaluation of the four Berkeley Public Library branches and the Tool Library to assess their feasibility to serve the community, both now and 20-years into the future;
- Updates, to current code standards in all pertinent areas, including structural, mechanical, electrical, architectural finishes, hazardous materials, ADA compliance, etc.;
- Includes input from the community, gathered by survey and community meetings held at the branches, and a community-representative Facilities Master Plan Advisory Committee; and
- Makes recommendations related to ADA compliance, life safety, functionality, historical integrity and feasibility to meet current and future service needs.

What are the Findings of the Study to Date?

WEST BRANCH: originally constructed in 1923 and expanded in 1974, underwent an extensive planning process as part of a potential State of California-funded building grant process in 2004. The building has some structural and infrastructure damage that need attention. In addition, the Literacy office is severely constrained for a highly successful program, competing with branch community programming space.

CLAREMONT BRANCH: built in 1924 and expanded in 1975, had ADA-related modifications in 2000, making it the most accessible of the branches. The historical and functional aspects of the branch would benefit from a renovation and completion of full lobby space though a minor expansion.

NORTH BRANCH: built in 1936 and the most heavily used neighborhood branch library, is substantially undersized for the needs of the North Berkeley area community, is not ADA accessible and lacks the infrastructure to meet current and future technology needs. Two options for modest additions to the rear of the building are proposed, the larger-size addition would allow for community meeting / library programming space.

SOUTH BRANCH: originally built in 1961 and expanded in 1974, has serious structural defects that would make it susceptible to significant damage during a major seismic event. Further, its infrastructure systems – electrical, mechanical, and telecommunications - are not constructed to adapt to current needs and the space lacks adequate flexibility to meet minimal computer and seating needs of the community. The South Branch also houses the Berkeley Tool Lending Library. This facility is one of the Library’s most successful and popular programs; however, it is in dire need of additional space to store, display and repair the tools it loans. The construction of a new building would allow the development of a branch to meet the community’s library needs and would significantly improve the tool library operation.

ED ROBERTS CAMPUS: The Library is also exploring two options at the Ed Roberts Campus (ERC) building, in which a 21st century innovative library site would provide the opportunity to develop a unique and focused facility with programs to serve the ERC users and visitors and to meet the growing needs of commuters passing through the Berkeley BART Station.

What are the recommendations?

The proposed program to improve all four branches would cost between \$21 – 26 Million. All of the recommendations would bring the buildings up to current code standards; meet seismic requirements; make all of the branches fully accessible to Berkeley’s diverse population; provide environmentally sustainable “green” operations; and create adequate space for the Tool Library and the adult literacy program, *Berkeley Reads*.

Next steps?

The Library’s infrastructure and capital needs will be an informational item at the **March 25, 2008, 5:00 PM, City Council Work Session** on possible bond measures for the November 2008 ballot.

Information on the Facility Planning process is available on the library’s website at: <http://berkeleypubliclibrary.org/> *Our Organization*.