

Library Master Facilities Plan: Project Fact Sheet

December 14, 2007



Branches

The Berkeley Public Library, established in 1893, has a Central Library and four branches, Tool Library, Adult Literacy program and free delivery to residents with disabilities and is one of the most heavily used public libraries in California. The City of Berkeley covers approximately 10 square miles with a population of about 106,000 residents.

A. Claremont (5,500 S.F.)

The branch was built in 1924. In 1975 it was expanded to adjacent property purchased for that purpose. In 2000 there was a small renovation (\$250,000) with the focus on ADA accessibility improvements, such as restroom expansion and general refreshments included reconfigured shelving, interior painting, new carpet, improvement to wiring and new book return.

B. North Branch (3,175 S.F.)

The building was built at this site in 1936 and has never been remodeled.

C. South Branch (4,500 S.F.)

Built in 1961, the building is the same as it was originally built, with only the addition of the meeting room in 1974.

D. Tool Library (approximately 500 S.F.)

A trailer to provide the tool service was added to the South Branch lot in 1979; since that time, storage space has been added and a concrete block building replaced the trailer.

E. West Branch (5,500 S.F.)

The branch was built in 1923, with a Carnegie grant and was remodeled in 1974. In 2003 significant renovation and expansion plans were developed for "Proposition 14", the California State Library Bond Fund Act grant application by Group 4 Architects.

Project Scope

The branch libraries must be flexible enough to address not only current but future service needs; therefore this project is focused on the capacity of the facilities themselves. The goal of the project is to develop pertinent facility information and knowledge that will further the ability of the Library to make solid strategic decisions regarding facility expenditures useful in the short term, and that will be considered a significant asset in developing plans for the future.

Improvement and Expansion Possibilities

The existing library facilities will be physically evaluated to determine whether or not existing buildings could or should be expanded and/or renovated, how much square footage could /would be added and the estimated cost of improvements. Consideration will be given to feasibility of expanding or renovating the site, staff and public space needs, parking, pedestrian and vehicular traffic patterns, present and future technology needs, etc. In consultation with staff a minimum of two scenarios will be developed for each location, for example, whether expansion is recommended or not and if space is available for growth. These options may be based on already

Library Master Facilities Plan: Project Fact Sheet

December 14, 2007

defined needs as outlined in previous studies, such as the West Branch Expansion in addition to recommendations developed by examining standards and facility related data from similar communities and libraries.

TIMELINE FOR BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY'S FACILITIES MASTER PLAN FOR BRANCH LIBRARIES

DECEMBER 2007

After RFP process, local firm Noll & Tam Architects hired to complete the Facilities Master Plan for Branch Libraries.

JANUARY 2008

Assessments of branch libraries performed by Noll & Tam Architects.

At branches and over the web, patrons surveyed about branch needs; spatial functionality; desired program elements.

FEBRUARY 2008

Noll & Tam Architects to present findings, options, and recommendations to Board and Master Facilities Planning Advisory Committee at February 13, 2008, Board of Library Trustees Meeting, to be held at 7pm at Central Library's 3rd floor Community Meeting Room.

MAY 2008

Final report to Board of Library Trustees and Master Facilities Planning Advisory Committee by Noll & Tam Architects. Board to make a decision on how to proceed with Master Facilities Planning Process.

For further information on the **FACILITIES MASTER PLAN FOR BRANCH LIBRARIES** and periodic updates go to www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org and click on [Our Organization](#) or go to http://berkeleypubliclibrary.org/about_the_library/our_organization.php

