



News Release
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Berkeley, California

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Berkeley Public Library Welcomes New Board of Library Trustee
Winston Burton

And Thanks Board of Library Trustee

Ying Lee

For Her Four Years of Dedication and Commitment

Berkeley Public Library and the Berkeley Public Library Board of Library Trustees welcomes **Winston Burton** as its newest member and thanks Trustee **Ying Lee** for her four years of service at a Reception to be held in the 3rd floor Community Meeting Room, Central Library, 2090 Kittredge Street in downtown Berkeley, on April 14, 2009, 5-6 pm.

Mr. Burton will begin his term on the Berkeley Public Library's Board of Library Trustees (BOLT) at the April 14, 2009, BOLT meeting at Central Library, following the Reception at 7 pm in the 3rd floor Community Meeting Room. Mr. Burton has previously served on local Boards and Committees as diverse as the Alameda County Workforce Investment Board (WIB works in partnership with the Board of Supervisors to coordinate and improve employment and training, literacy and vocational rehabilitation programs in Alameda County), the Berkeley Chamber of Commerce, Berkeley's Downtown Area Planning Advisory Committee, and the Berkeley Public Library Foundation (BPLF) Board -- while serving on the BPLF Board, he was one of the co-chairs of the successful Measure FF campaign (passed by Berkeley voters in November 2008 to renovate and make seismically safe and ADA-accessible the four branch libraries in Berkeley). For almost 30 years, Mr. Burton has created, developed, and administered employment and training programs for low income people across the United States, beginning in 1977 when he started the "New Jobs for Women Electronics Program" in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. A former cab driver, Xerox technician, and electronics instructor,

Burton has been, for the past 20 years, the Employment Coordinator and Economic Development Director at *Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency* (BOSS), developing employment and training opportunities for homeless persons in Alameda County.

Mr. Burton's mother retired from the Philadelphia Public Library after over 30 years of service as a Library Assistant III. He was raised using libraries and believing in their tremendous value. He also believes that using libraries has helped him be a strong listener, a skill, he suggests, that is as valuable as being able to speak well. Burton knows that libraries are an absolutely essential part of the community, especially in these difficult times: "In the current economic climate, public, private, and community agencies can find themselves in competition to complete their missions. In these troubling times, it is important that libraries continue to provide the same high standard of service in spite of diminishing resources and revenues."

Trustee Ying Lee has served conscientiously on BOLT for four years and was active in the Measure FF campaign. A major part of Ms. Lee's and her family's education depended upon public libraries. As a new immigrant and a young teen, she clearly remembers how happy she was using the San Francisco Public Library, a resource paid for by the people and open to all the people. She has brought that early experience and her strong belief that *a free people is an informed people* to all her work as a Berkeley Public Library Trustee. Her support of public libraries as an institution coupled with her wide and deep experience in politics and in the community have made Lee a valuable member of BOLT. Lee said, "I am honored to have worked closely with our wonderful library staff, the Board of Trustees, and our community these past four years and look forward to continuing my support and usage of our great public library." Lee now brings her own grandchildren to the library to hear stories and become acquainted with this terrific resource.

Ying Lee will be missed from the Board of Library Trustees, and the Berkeley Public Library and the Berkeley Public Library Board of Library Trustees wish her well in her next activities. "I am certain that we will see her in a library branch soon," said Library Director Donna Corbeil.

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