



BERKELEY
PUBLIC
LIBRARY
ANNUAL
REPORT
2012



Contents



2012 was a year of progress and transformation for the Berkeley Public Library. On the local stage, the Library continues to play an important role in citizens' lives while we, like all libraries nationwide, respond to the dramatic changes in the ways people make use of their libraries. As time passes more books are being read in digital formats, music, and movies are increasingly seen as downloadable products, librarians are leading events of all kinds for all audiences, and library spaces have moved far beyond the traditional hushed reading room.

In this shifting landscape, one of the questions I am most frequently asked is, "How will libraries stay relevant?" All public libraries are concerned with the answers to this question. Like all libraries, we strive to be a central part of our community by meeting the expectations and changing needs of the people we serve. We have grown and evolved by embracing new technologies and innovating along the way. The Library remains a prominent player in Berkeley's continuum of learning and inspiration, providing the books, magazines, movies and music people want in the ways people want them — both traditional formats and online from our growing digital collection. We are, and will continue to serve as, a sustainable and sustaining resource by feeding local creativity, preserving our collective history, nourishing the arts, supporting small businesses and job seekers, ensuring continuity in our commitment to service, and providing a much needed comfortable place in the



community where everyone may enrich their lives. Thanks to your continued support and involvement, we look with optimism toward the future.

Our local transitions this year were significant — we temporarily closed the South and West Branch Libraries to begin their transformations into newly rebuilt neighborhood libraries and, surrounded by hundreds of our devoted patrons, celebrated the glorious reopenings of the Claremont and North Branch Libraries. These two historic buildings were restored and renewed, so that they will not only continue as accessible, comfortable community gathering places but also take on new roles as information hubs, contributing to the vitality and health of the city. Visitors are enjoying the comfortable seating by the fireplaces and the teen areas have become very popular afterschool hangouts. From day one of the reopenings visitors have expressed their pleasure — they love the new spaces, characterizing them as classy, better than when they were first built, colorful, and with a wonderful sense of space and light. The completed projects have both received U.S. Green Building Council Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver Certification, identifying them as pioneering examples of sustainable design. Additionally, both libraries have been recognized by the Bay-Friendly Landscaping & Gardening Coalition as Bay-Friendly rated landscapes, designed and built to reduce waste and pollution, protect water quality and wildlife habitat, and contribute to a healthier community.

In the coming year we plan to re-open the newly constructed South and West Branch Libraries, bringing back to those communities much needed



and missed library services and two of our unique programs, Berkeley Reads, the adult and family literacy program at West Branch, and the Tool Lending Library at South Branch. We look forward to sharing the innovations in design and services that these spaces will feature, as well as all that is happening at your Berkeley Public Library.

The staff and I thank you for your ongoing support and we invite you to visit us soon.

— Donna Corbeil
Director of Library Services



The Library's Family Place is part of a national model for family-centered service to young children, parents, and caregivers.

Statistical Highlights

During these challenging times, it's hard to find a better value than the public library. And Berkeley Public Library's fortunate customers can choose from over 600,000 books, audiobooks, music CDs, DVDs, music scores, tools, and downloadable works of literature or streaming music, use one of over 120 library computers with Internet access, or bring their own laptops, tablets, and handheld devices to connect to free wireless networks — which they did. In abundance.

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- Berkeley residents truly make good use of their Library — the 1.76 million checkouts were the highest per capita circulation (19.25) all across California for a city of this size.
- The Library maintained its status as a prominent player in Berkeley's continuum of learning and inspiration — a place where residents can meet their needs for information, culture, and entertainment. In addition to the many checkouts and throngs of visitors to Berkeley's libraries, the Library's robust online presence, www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org, was also tremendously popular, with over 900,000 visits.
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Claremont's picture book alcove is a much-loved destination for our youngest neighbors!

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Cindy helps connect patrons with what they are looking for at the Central Information Desk

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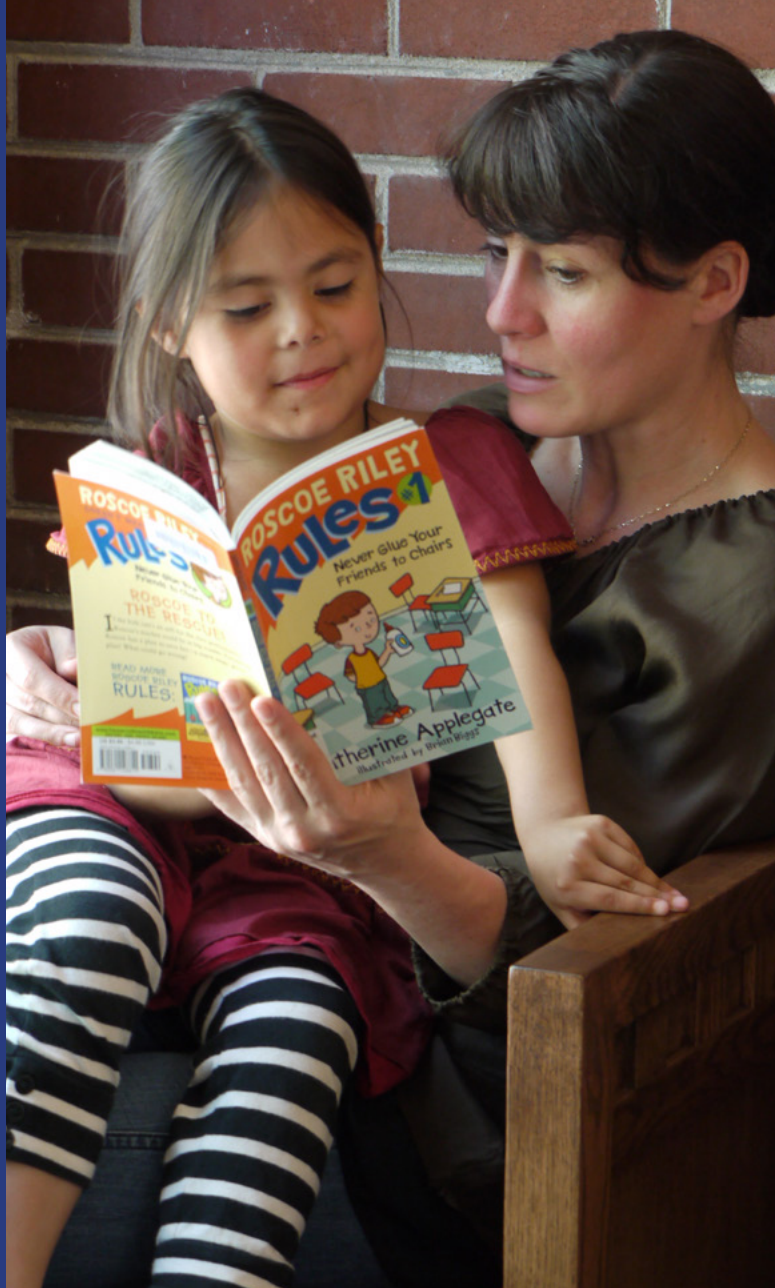


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Juan cheerfully helps answer questions and check out materials at the North Branch.

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Services and Programs

All year long, the Library sponsored free public events — nearly 1,600 of them — attended by almost 40,000 persons, a figure equal to one third of Berkeley's population. The Library saw a large increase in attendance across our adult, school-age, and teen audiences. Over 1,100 Library events were developed specifically for children and teens, helping to educate and inspire Berkeley's young people.

- Famed vocalist **Suzzy Roche** read from her new novel *Wayward Saints*.
- The tradition of free concerts at the Central Library carries on, and 2012 saw appearances by the **Kitka Women's Vocal Ensemble**, the **Chanticleer Youth Choir**, **Berkeley West Edge Opera** and **Berkeley Jazzschool's** pianist **Erika Oba**.
- The Library again collaborated with the **Aurora Theatre Company** to present an evening seminar on **Arthur Schnitzler's *Anatol***.
- The photographs and artwork of the **Red, Bike and Green collective (RBG)**, could be seen at **Central**, along with a free family program that included hands-on crafts and a presentation by **RBG artists**.
- Staff worked with the **Historical Society** and **UC** and to organize a **100th anniversary celebration** of women's suffrage in **CA** including a literary talk *Marching With Aunt Susan*, a story about a Berkeley girl whose mother hosted **Susan B. Anthony** in 1904.



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Local small business owners learned about affordable legal resources at a recent workshop for new entrepreneurs.

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Anwan, Head of Central Reference, is among the many expert librarians waiting to help patrons needing information.

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Berkeley Reads staff Linda and Ester bring dedication and joy to their work.

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Branch Improvement Program



Berkeley Public Library celebrated the grand reopenings of two Branch Libraries in 2012 — North Branch and Claremont Branch.



Younger celebrants explored the computers in the updated and expanded children's area.

Claremont Branch Library

On a sunny May 5th, many hundreds of library fans, serenaded by the Berkeley High Jazz combo, eagerly celebrated the grand reopening of the Claremont Branch on Benvenue Avenue. This expansion and updating of the historic 1923 Library resulted in a fully accessible facility with more space, computers, a dedicated children's programming area, a posh space for teens, automated materials handling systems, and improved working areas for employees.

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.

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



Younger celebrants explored the computers in the updated and expanded children's area.

- 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



- 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
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Photo: Richard Friedman

North Branch Library upgrades include a roomy and comfortable new space for teens and a large Community Room.

North Branch Library

On April 7th, 2012, over 1000 people welcomed the reopening of the beloved and beautiful landmark North Branch Library. With a 3,850 sq. ft. addition, a new Community Room, a dedicated and roomy teen space, and filled with scores of new books, recordings, movies, and computers, the reborn facility was celebrated — to the musical accompaniment of virtuosi from The Crowden School — by library-lovers from far and wide.

Project Facts

Architects: Architectural Resources Group with Tom Eliot Fisch

Civic Art Component: *A Patchwork of Trees*, by Marion Coleman

Project Cost: \$5.964 million (construction \$4.76 million)

Scope: Improvement and expansion, 3,850 SF 2-story addition to an existing 5,500 sq. ft. building

The new North offers:

- Historically sensitive restoration of the original building
- Improved design and layout providing full ADA accessibility
- Seismic strengthening and improved fire protections
- Spacious multipurpose community room with state of the art audio-visual equipment
- 45% more public access Internet computers



Photo: Richard Friedman

North Branch Library upgrades include a roomy and comfortable new space for teens and a large Community Room.

- Larger teen room with dedicated computers
- Energy efficient lighting indoors and out
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Photo: Richard Friedman

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Comfortable, teen-friendly furnishings adorn North's Teen Room.



Photo: Richard Friedman

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North Branch Library upgrades include a roomy and comfortable new space for teens and a large Community Room.



Rendering: Bezier

South Branch Library

The South Branch Library and the Tool Lending Library closed for rebuilding in early 2012. The existing 5,400 sq. ft. building is being replaced with a new, much larger, state-of-the-art 8,700 sq. ft. library that complies with all current codes including being seismically safe and fully accessible to everyone. The new South Branch/Tool Lending Library will be a warm and welcoming building with improved lighting, ventilation, and thermal comfort. It will create an attractive civic presence for pedestrians and passers-by on one of Berkeley's busy arterial boulevards. Inside, there will be distinct zones for adults, teens, and children's services and a multipurpose community room available for use throughout the day. The much-loved, unique Tool Library will have a larger space with adequate indoor storage for a refreshed tool collection and easy access to tools and staff assistance.

Project facts

Architects: Field Paoli

Civic Art Component: Snapshot Mosaics, Gina Dominguez

Project cost: \$6.5 million (construction \$5 million)

Scope: Full construction of a new library facility to replace the existing 1961 building.

The new South Branch Library and the Tool Lending Library building will add 3,300 sq. ft. of space to the old footprint.



Construction is progressing on schedule at South Branch.

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The new library will feature an abundance of natural light.

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Project facts

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Civic Art Component: Snapshot Mosaics, Gina Dominguez

Project cost: \$6.5 million (construction \$5 million)

Scope: Full construction of a new library facility to replace the existing 1961 building.



West patrons can look forward to a new, state-of-the-art Library, with large windows to provide lots of natural light.

West Branch Library

On the same day in May 2012 that the new Claremont Library re-opened, the West Branch Library closed to allow the construction of a completely rebuilt 9,300 sq. ft. library replacing the old 6,400 sq. ft. building. Like all of the branch library projects the new West Branch will be fully compliant with current building codes, accessible, and seismically safe. The new one-story building will continue to be the home of Berkeley Reads, the Library's adult and family literacy program, with increased room for group trainings and one-on-one tutoring. When completed the library will be a friendly, welcoming hub of the West Berkeley community, and reflect Berkeley's commitment to a green future by reducing the net consumption of energy and lighting to zero. The library will make use of the latest energy efficient heating and cooling systems, natural day lighting, and solar voltaics to operate minimally from the energy grid.

Project facts

Architects: Harley Ellis Devereaux – GreenWorks Studio

Civic Art Component: Spectra, Wowhaus

Project cost: \$7.5 million (construction \$6 million)

Scope: Construction of a new library to replace the existing facility



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Library Support



The Friends maintain two bookstores — one on the first floor of Central Library and a larger store on Channing Way.

Friends of the Berkeley Public Library

The Friends of the Library is a non-profit membership organization whose purpose is to expand the educational, cultural, and outreach programs of the Library. New and gently used books donated to the Friends are sold at the Friends' two bookstores; one in the Central Library and one at 2433 Channing Way near the UCB Campus. Money raised through the bookstores funds children's reading events, author talks, musical performances, Internet computer classes, and branch library events. The Friends of the Berkeley Public Library always welcome new members to help support the Library.

Diane Davenport, President
Friends of the Berkeley Public Library

www.berkeleylibraryfriends.org



Photo: Richard Friedman

Each year, the Foundation hosts a much-anticipated gala event, the Author's Dinner.

Berkeley Public Library Foundation

The mission of the Library Foundation is "to support our community's knowledge and learning by enhancing library facilities, programs, and services." The Foundation's major activity in 2012 was the successful continuation of the Neighborhood Libraries Campaign. The Four Branches — One Goal Campaign has raised almost \$3 million, through donations large and small, and is virtually at its objective of completely funding the furniture and equipment needs for the four new neighborhood branch libraries — a lasting investment in state-of-the-art facilities for everyone in Berkeley: www.bplf.org/branch-campaign. Additionally, for eleven years running the Foundation continues to celebrate the Bay Area's vibrant literary community and raise funds through their annual Authors Dinner.

Elisabeth Watson, President, Board of Directors
Kirsten Cowan, Executive Director

www.bplf.org



Budget Summary

The Library's services and programs are supported from a variety of revenue sources encompassing the Library Services Tax, private and public grants, awards from the California State Library, fines and fees, and generous monetary gifts and donations received from individuals, organizations and trusts, and companies. The Library Services Tax, a special assessment on local property taxes, is the largest contributor to Library revenues and for FY 2012 the rate was increased by 2.821%, consistent with the rise in the San Francisco Bay Area CPI.

Fiscal Year 2012 (July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012) Year-end report (Library Tax Fund)

Final total revenues	\$14,909,060
Final total expenditures	\$14,181,900
Ending fund balance	\$2,267,978

Projections: Fiscal year 2013 concludes the biennial budget cycle for fiscal years 2012 and 2013. In June 2012, the FY 2013 budget was updated for current conditions and approved in separate actions by the Board of Library Trustees and the Berkeley City Council, and included a 3.77% increase in the FY 2013 library tax rate in accordance with the rise in the per capita personal income growth factor for the state of California. As a result of measures taken over the past several biennial budget cycles to restrain the growth in Library expenditures, the FY 2013 budget achieves



the significant long-term goal of the Board of Library Trustees to establish a reserve fund to sustain Library operations in the event of an emergency. Additionally, in FY 2013 the Library expects to return its investment in the Library materials budget to the \$1M mark, an important value milestone to both the Library and our community.

The Measure FF Branch Library Improvement Program, begun in 2009 following the November 2008 voter approval of general obligation bonds to improve the four neighborhood branch libraries, passed the halfway point with the public reopening of the North and Claremont branch libraries in April and May of 2012, respectively — closing of the construction contracts, favorable to the budget, for the two facilities is expected in early FY 2013. Program expenditures in FY 2013 are projected at \$15,098,969 and are directed primarily towards the construction, and furnishing and equipment purchases for the South and West branch libraries.



Back row, from left: Julie Holcomb, Jim Novosel, Darryl Moore;
front, Winston Burton, Abigail Franklin.

Board of Library Trustees

The five-member board, appointed by the City Council, is charged with management and governance of the Library. The Board meets monthly to formulate major policies and long-range plans for the Library. Members serve four-year terms.

Winston Burton
Abigail Franklin
Darryl Moore, City Councilmember
Julie Holcomb
Jim Novosel

www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org/about_the_library/bolt/bolt.php