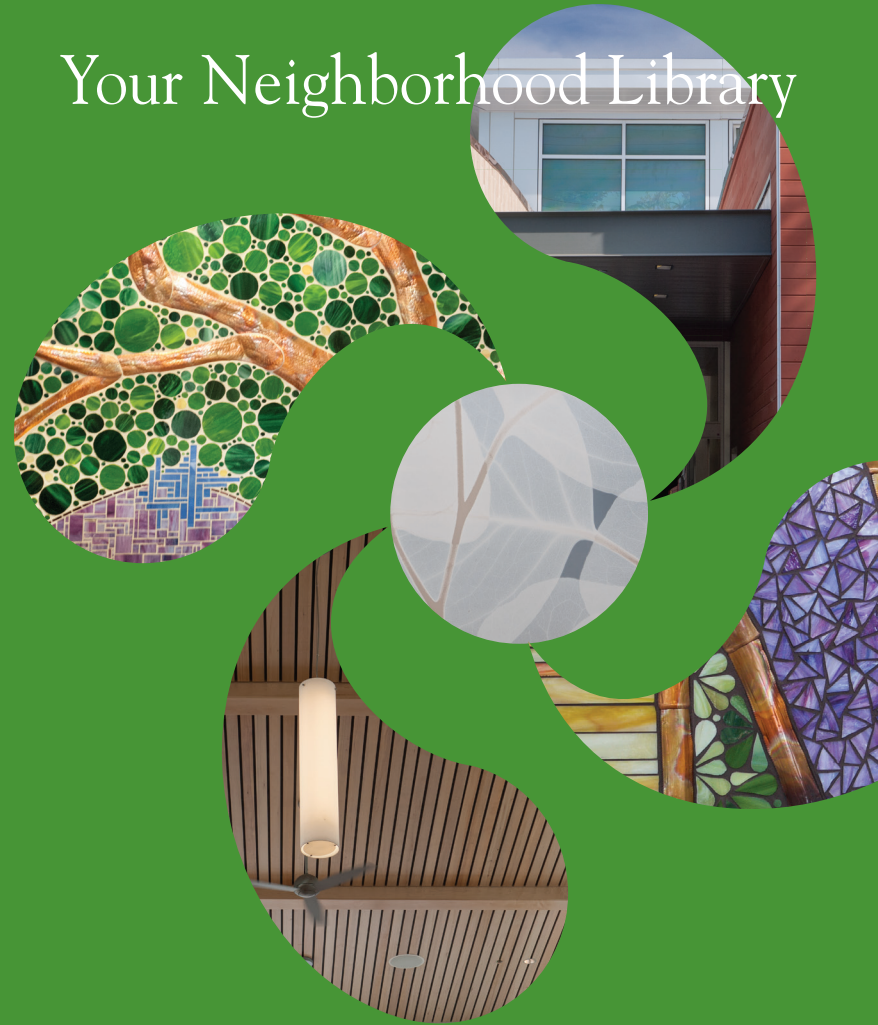


SOUTH BRANCH LIBRARY

Your Neighborhood Library



Branch History

From 1896 to 1901, the South Branch community was served by the Lorin Reading Room, located in an Alcatraz Avenue building. In 1901, the Reading Room moved to its own building on Adeline Street, and was renamed South Branch in 1903, where it stayed for nearly 25 years. In 1927, James W. Plachek (later the architect of the 1931 Central Library) designed a cozy branch library building at 1839 Woolsey Street. In 1958, this building was condemned and a new structure, designed by architect J. Hans Ostwald, was constructed in 1961 at the present location — Russell & Martin Luther King Jr. Way. The meeting room was added in 1974, and in 1979 a small trailer was parked behind the branch to serve as a tool lending library — one of the first in the country. By 1991 a permanent addition was added to South to house the now wildly popular Tool Lending Library.

In recent years it became clear that the 1961 building no longer met the needs of the community. When serious problems were found with the building's structural elements, and the ventilation, plumbing, and electrical systems, the decision was made to replace rather than renovate. The building was torn down and the beautiful new South Branch Library, designed with community input, was built.

Central Library

(510) 981-6100

2090 Kittredge

Mon: 12 – 8

Tues: 10 – 8

Wed – Sat: 10 – 6

Sun: 1 – 5

Claremont Branch

(510) 981-6280

2940 Benvenue Ave.

Mon – Tues: 10 – 6

Wed – Thu: 12 – 8

Fri – Sat: 10 – 6

Sun: Closed

North Branch

(510) 981-6250

1170 The Alameda

Mon – Tues: 10 – 6

Wed – Thu: 12 – 8

Fri – Sat: 10 – 6

Sun: Closed

Tool Lending Library (at South Branch)

(510) 981-6101

Tues: 10 – 6

Wed – Thu: 12 – 8

Fri: 1 – 6

Sat: 10 – 6

Sun – Mon: Closed

West Branch Library is temporarily closed for construction, and is scheduled to reopen in Fall 2013

Project Facts

Architect: Field Paoli Architects

Civic Art Component: *Mosaics* by Gina Dominguez

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

Scope: Construct and furnish a new 8,700 square foot facility comprised of the Library, the Community Meeting Room and the Tool Lending Library.

The new South Branch offers:

- 3300 square feet of additional space compared with the old facility
- Spacious reading rooms for children and adults, with plentiful natural light
- Separate teen room with dedicated computers
- Expanded comfortable and table seating
- Study room for small group use
- Community meeting room with state-of-the-art presentation technology
- More public access computers, including laptops for in-library use
- Automated materials handling for faster reshelving of materials
- An expanded Tool Library with improved layout and storage areas
- Energy efficient lighting and water systems
- Sustainable building design including rooftop solar panels, radiant heating in the floors, and wood paneling recycled from the 1961 building.
- Improved layout with all areas ADA accessible

Welcome to Your New South Branch Library!

This new facility, built to serve future generations, has been designed to be inviting, efficient and flexible. Library patrons will enjoy plenty of natural light, adequate space for users of all ages, beautiful artwork by Gina Dominguez and renowned Berkeley sculptor Stephen De Staebler, and expanded seating and Internet access throughout the library.

The renovation and improvements were completed as part of the Branch Library Improvement Program that began in 2009 following the passage of Measure FF in November 2008. Funds from the \$26 million bond measure will bring all four branches up to current code standards. Thanks to Measure FF, renovated branches will meet current seismic requirements, be fully ADA accessible and provide environmentally sustainable "green" operations.

South Branch Library staff are excited about this new branch, and are looking forward to providing:

- A wealth of materials in multiple formats — books, periodicals, audiobooks, DVDs, music, CDs, and downloadable e-books
- Access to the full Berkeley Public Library collection and, through Link+, to the collections of more than 50 partner institutions
- A state-of-the-art Community Meeting Room for use by local groups and organizations
- Easier access to a rejuvenated tool collection
- Storytimes for babies, toddlers and preschoolers
- Early Literacy playspace for very young children
- Regular programming for children, teens, and adults
- Self-service printing, copying, and scanning
- Summer Reading Programs for children and teens



BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY
SOUTH BRANCH
1901 Russell Street (at MLK Jr. Way), Berkeley, CA 94703 • (510) 981-6260
Tool Lending Library • (510) 981-6101
www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org

Branch Hours
Mon, Tue: 10 – 6
Wed, Thu: 12 – 8
Fri, Sat: 10 – 6
Sun: Closed