

WEST BRANCH LIBRARY

Your Neighborhood Library



1125 University Avenue (at San Pablo Avenue)
Berkeley, CA 94702
(510) 981-6270

Branch History

The West Branch was the first stand-alone branch in the Berkeley Public Library system, opening in February of 1896. At that time, the building was located slightly west of the current location, at 845 University Ave. A new branch was planned in the 1910s, but never built. In 1923, the West Branch moved into a new building in its current location. Designed by architect William K. Bartges, that facility cost \$14,000 to build. An extensive remodel and small addition was made in 1974 designed by Ratcliff, Slama, and Cadwalader.

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: 10 - 6

Tues - Wed: 10 - 8

Thu: 12 - 8

Fri - Sat: 10 - 6

Sun: Closed

North Branch

(510) 981-6250

1170 The Alameda

Mon: 10 - 6

Tues - Wed: 10 - 8

Thu: 12 - 8

Fri - Sat: 10 - 6

Sun: Closed

South Branch

(510) 981-6260

1901 Russell St.

Mon: 10 - 6

Tues - Wed: 10 - 8

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

Project Facts

Architect: Harley Ellis Devereaux

Civic Art Component: *Spectrascapes #1-4* by WOWHAUS, Scott Constable, and Ene Osteraas-Constable

Project Cost: \$7.5 million total (\$6 million construction costs)

Scope: Construct and furnish a new 9,300 square foot Zero Net Energy facility incorporating the Library, the Community Meeting Room and the offices and computer lab of the Berkeley READS adult literacy program.

The new West Branch offers:

- Environmental design that minimizes use of energy combined with rooftop solar energy collection, targeting Zero Net Energy
- Spacious reading rooms for children and adults; high ceilings with plentiful natural light
- Cozy storybook nook for young patrons and their families
- Separate teen room with dedicated computers
- Expanded comfortable seating and tables
- Study room for small group use
- Community meeting room with state-of-the-art presentation technology
- Floor space increase of 3,100 square feet
- More public access computers, including laptops for in-library use
- Automated materials handling for faster reshelving of materials
- Improved program space for the Berkeley READS adult literacy program, including semi-private intake area, dedicated space for client services, and a training/computer lab
- Improved layout with all areas ADA accessible

Welcome to Your New West Branch Library!

This facility has been designed from the ground up with energy efficiency in mind. From over-window heating elements and radiant floor heating to engineered airflow, the building is comfortable and welcoming while using a minimum amount of energy. Rooftop solar panels will make enough energy to replenish the energy used, resulting in a Zero Net Energy facility.

Patrons will immediately notice the plentiful natural light from the large windows and skylights. The expansive main reading room provides comfortable seating, as well as ample space for people using the library's computers or their own.

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 have been used to bring all four branches up to current code standards. Thanks to Measure FF, renovated branches meet current seismic requirements, are fully ADA accessible and provide environmentally sustainable "green" operations.

West 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 and e-audiobooks
- A bright and welcoming office and computer lab for the staff, tutors and learners of Berkeley READS
- A state-of-the-art Community Meeting Room for use by local groups and organizations
- Storytimes for babies, toddlers and preschoolers
- Regular programming for children, teens, and adults



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Branch Hours

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Tues, Wed: 10 – 8
Thu: 12 – 8
Fri, Sat: 10 – 6
Sun: Closed