Anza Branch Library Renovation
Frequently Asked Questions

What are the plans for the branch?
We voted to renovate and build new branch libraries across the City – it's happening! The renovation priorities include making the branch seismically safe, fully accessible, and technologically updated. Both the public and staff areas will become more functional. A small expansion is planned to recoup space needed for disabled access, seismic work, and building system upgrades.

What will be some of the benefits of the renovated branch?

- Small expansion at the rear & side of the building
- Seismic strengthening
- New elevator
- New accessible restrooms
- A designated Teen Area
- Better lighting
- New & refinished furniture, shelving, and materials displays
- Revamped program room downstairs, equipped for computer instruction
- Quiet adult reading area
- Clearer signage
- More computers with access to the internet and library online resources
- Express check out machines
- Comfortable seating and a variety of seating choices
- Infrastructure to provide modern technologies and flexibility for the future
- More functional staff work areas
- Improved heating and ventilation
- Street level entry with no steps
- Handicapped parking space
- Restored historic features such as painted ceilings

When will the branch be closed and for how long?
The branch is scheduled to close early 2009 and reopen in early 2011. During the renovation, library services will be provided by holding programs at neighborhood schools and community centers and by bookmobile service. Closing may be delayed due to design issues, complications arising from the bidding, contracting or permit process, or other matters.

Who are the architects?
Bureau of Architecture's Library Design Studio, Department of Public Works, City & County of San Francisco.

Will the amount of books increase?
The space for materials (books, CDs, DVDs, books on tape, etc.) will increase and materials will be easier to find on new shelves in an improved layout. The small addition will also address increased space needs for accessibility, system upgrades, and improved functionality.

What happens to the existing furniture?
The furniture will be replaced or refinished. The Library has developed interior design guidelines to help the architects and staff choose appropriate furniture based on functionality, ergonomics, durability, maintenance, flexibility, sustainability, as well as the architectural period.

Is the community involved in the design process?
Yes. A survey was conducted in 2005, where 300 people gave their opinion about materials, facilities, and services. Community meetings were held at the branch (April 2006 & February 2008) to solicit design ideas, discuss survey results and service priorities, and review designs. The Library Commission will hold a public Peer Review where an independent architect and library professional review the design. Before construction begins, the architects will return to the community to discuss the plans.

Where does the money come from to renovate the branch?
In November 2000, the voters overwhelmingly passed a bond measure for $106 million to upgrade San Francisco's branch library system. The bond's priorities are to reduce seismic risk, meet modern technological needs and current code requirements, comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and provide spaces that are responsive to current services, yet flexible enough to meet future needs. In addition, while the bond pays for a significant portion of the costs, it does not pay for furniture, fixtures, and equipment. The Friends of the San Francisco Public Library will raise $16 million from private donations to pay for these costs. Call (415) 626-7512 ext. 103 to help with the Friends campaign.

How much will it cost to renovate the Anza Branch Library?
The project has a budget of about $6.3 million to renovate the existing building, not including furniture and equipment. All designs are subject to change in order to meet this fixed budget limit.

How do I find out more information about my branch renovation?
Contact the Branch Library Improvement Program at (415) 557-4354, check www.sfpl.org, or email BLIP@sfpl.org.

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