BRANCH LIBRARY
IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

City & County of San Francisco
Branch Library Improvement Program

Eureka Valley/Harvey Milk Memorial Branch Library Renovation
Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What are the plans for the branch?
A. 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.

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

- Small expansion at the rear of the building
- Seismic strengthening
- New accessible restrooms
- A designated Teen Area
- Better lighting
- New furniture, shelving, and materials displays
- Flexible space for programs
- 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
- Wireless (Wi-Fi) access to the internet
- More functional staff work areas
- Improved heating and ventilation

Q. When will the branch be closed and for how long?
A. The branch closed March 1, 2008 and is scheduled to reopen late 2009. During the renovation, library services will be provided by holding weekly storytimes and lapsits at the Eureka Valley Recreation Center (100 Collingwood at 18th St.) and by bookmobile service in front of the closed branch, 16th Street between Pond & Prosper Streets. Adult programs will continue at the Three Dollar Bill Café at the LGBT Center at 1800 Market. Note that most titles from the special LGBT Collection also exist in the Main Library Collection, 100 Larkin Street.

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

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

Q. What happens to the existing furniture?
A. Most of the furniture will be replaced. 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.

Q. Is the community involved in the design process?
A. Yes. A survey was conducted in 2005, where 350 people gave their opinion about materials, facilities, and services. Community meetings were held at the branch (December 2004, June 2005, August 2006 & October 2006) to solicit design ideas, discuss survey results and service priorities, and review designs. The Library Commission held a public Peer Review where an independent architect, interior designer, and historic preservationist reviewed the design. Before construction begins, the architects will return to the community to discuss the final plans.

Q. What is the status of the GLBT Historical Society in relation to the branch?
A. In keeping with the recommendations of a feasibility study conducted by Gensler Architecture, Design, and Planning Worldwide, the GLBT Historical Society does not plan to pursue a museum location at the branch.

Q. Where does the money come from to renovate the branch?
A. 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.

Q. How much will it cost to renovate the Eureka Valley Branch Library?
A. The project is estimated to cost $5.4 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.

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

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