Branch Library Improvement Program
Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Branch Library Improvement Program (BLIP)?
In November 2000, the voters passed a bond measure for $106 million to upgrade San Francisco's branch library system and in November 2007, the voters overwhelmingly passed Proposition D authorizing additional funding to improve the branches. The Branch Library Improvement Program will provide the public with seismically safe, accessible, technologically updated, and code compliant City-owned branch libraries in every neighborhood. This is the first opportunity in half a century to improve the City's library system.

Which neighborhoods will get new libraries and why?
New branch libraries will be built in Glen Park & Portola (completed!), Ingleside, and Visitacion Valley. These branches are currently housed in leased facilities and will be replaced by City-owned buildings. A new branch – the first in 40 years – opened in July 2006 in the new community of Mission Bay. In addition, the North Beach, Ortega, and Bayview branch libraries will be replaced with new buildings.

Which libraries will be renovated?
The Excelsior, West Portal, Sunset, Western Addition, Marina, and Noe Valley branch library renovations are complete. Ten more branches will be renovated: Anza, Bernal Heights, Eureka Valley/Harvey Milk Memorial, Golden Gate Valley, Merced, Park, Parkside, Potrero, Presidio, and Richmond/Senator Milton Marks (opening May 16th!).

What are the priorities of the program?
The priorities are to reduce seismic risk, comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), meet modern technological needs and current code requirements, and provide spaces that are responsive to current services, yet flexible enough to meet future needs.

Does the Bond money pay for everything?
No, the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library are raising $16 million from private donations for furniture, fixtures, and equipment. Call (415) 626-7512 x 103 to help with this campaign. Also, the City was awarded $9.7 million from State Public Library Construction & Renovation Bond funds (Proposition 14) for the Richmond and Ingleside projects for construction and furniture.

What improvements will be made at my branch library?
A 'Community Needs Assessment' is being conducted for each branch, with public meetings, community surveys and outreach to neighborhood organizations. Design options are considered such as public meeting rooms, more computers, separate teen facilities, child and adult reading areas, and other library services. Because the budget for each branch is fixed, there are many difficult choices about what will fit into each branch library. These decisions are made with input from the neighborhood and staff.

When will my branch be worked on?
The 16 renovated branch libraries are scheduled to close for construction in the following years. However, closing may be delayed due to funding or design issues, complications arising from the bidding, contracting or permit process, or other matters.

2004-05	2006-07	2008	2009
Excelsior	Noe Valley	Bernal Heights	Anza
West Portal	Richmond	Eureka Valley	Merced
Marina	Western Addition	Potrero	Parkside
Sunset	*Completed!*		Golden Gate Valley
Completed!			

Park
Presidio

Will the branch be closed during construction?
During renovation, branches will be closed temporarily from 16 to 32 months. Library services will be provided by increasing hours at a nearby branch, holding programs at neighborhood schools and community centers, and offering bookmobile service. During construction of new branches, the existing leased libraries will remain open.

How do I get involved?
There will be several community meetings to discuss services and architectural plans. Ask your Branch Manager to add your name to our mailing list. In addition, plans will be reviewed by the Library Commission at public forums.

How do I find out more information?
Ask your Branch Manager, check our website at www.sfpl.org, contact the Library's Chief of Branches at 415-557-4353 or call the Branch Library Improvement Program at 415-557-4354.

Building better libraries for stronger communities.