BRANCH LIBRARY
IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Merced Branch Library Renovation
Frequently Asked Questions

What are the plans for the branch?
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 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?

- New addition at the front of the building
- Seismic strengthening
- New accessible restrooms
- A designated Teen Area
- Children's Area doubled in size
- Better lighting
- New furniture, shelving, and materials displays
- New fireside lounge reading area
- Clearer signage
- After hours book drops
- 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
- LEED silver certification

When will the branch be closed and for how long?
The branch closed June 2009 and is scheduled to reopen in fall 2010. During the renovation, library services will be provided by holding programs at neighborhood schools and community centers and by bookmobile service. Construction 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 remain the same, but materials will be easier to find on new shelves in an improved layout. The addition will 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 late 2005, where 700 people gave their opinion about materials, facilities, and services. Community meetings were held at the branch (May 2006 & February 2008) to solicit design ideas, discuss survey results and service priorities, and review designs. In addition, the Library Commission held a public Peer Review where an independent architect and library professional reviewed the design.

How much will it cost to renovate the Merced Branch Library?
The project is estimated to cost between $4.4 – 4.72 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.

Where does the money come from to renovate the branch?
Funds for the Merced project will come from the November 2000 library bond measure and the recent passage of Proposition D.

Are there other funds that need to be raised?
Yes, the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library are raising funds from private donations for new furniture, fixtures, and equipment for the branch library. For information on the neighborhood capital campaign, call (415) 626-7512 ext. 101.

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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