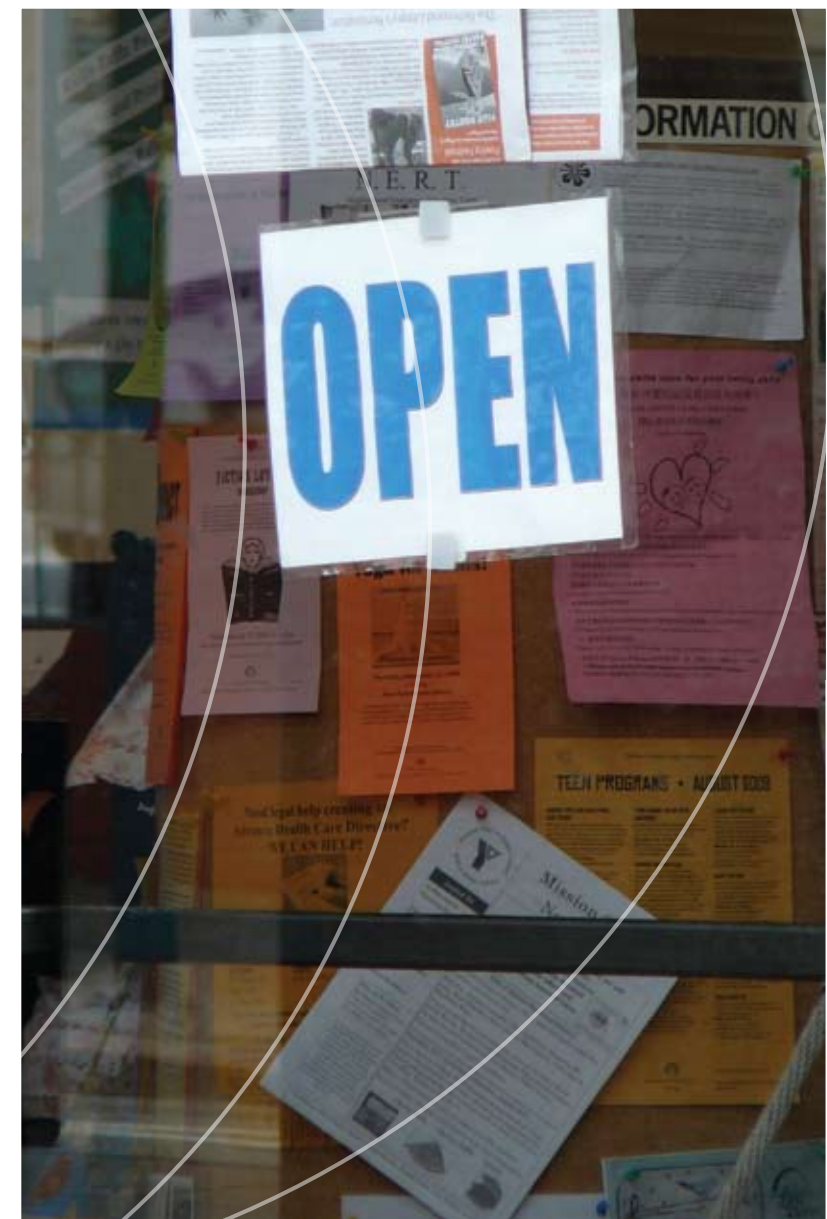




Annual Report
2007-08, 2008-09
San Francisco Public Library
Friends of the San Francisco Public Library



Taproot
FOUNDATION

This annual report was made with the support of the Taproot Foundation team of Leslie Goode, Aleksandra Grippo, Ed Kamrin, Linda Rosso and Simran Singh.

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SAN FRANCISCO'S MAIN LIBRARY
AND 27 BRANCHES



THE LIBRARY PROVIDES
FREE & OPEN
ACCESS TO MORE THAN
9 MILLION PRINTED AND
MULTIMEDIA ITEMS.



San Francisco Public Library



San Francisco Public Library



BEING OPEN

The San Francisco Public Library and Friends of the San Francisco Public Library are pleased to present this joint annual report. United by their dedication to building a world-class library for San Francisco, the Library and Friends work in close partnership, receiving key support from hundreds of thousands of San Francisco residents who interact with the Library as users, volunteers, donors, and advocates.

Like so many journeys at the Library, this annual report begins with an act of opening. Whether you've received a printed version of the report or an electronic link, you've taken the first step of opening it and beginning to read what's inside.

The Library opens its doors to all members of the community. Thanks to extended open hours, reopened branch libraries, and investments in technology, the Library is open more than ever. In fact, it's as close as the nearest computer, portable music device, or DVD player.

Although increasing access to the Library is critically important, openness is more than branches and hours; it's the spirit in which the Library and Friends approach our respective work. In the pages to come, you'll read about how our organizations are open to progress and change, from evolving technologies that change the way we access information to a multifaceted initiative to make the Library more green.

Like the City it serves, the Library is open and welcoming to people from around the world, representing the cultural, ethnic, gender, and age diversity that is a hallmark of San Francisco. That means not only diverse collections and holdings, but also an active exhibition calendar, a wealth of special events, and an innovative online citizenship preparation program. The active and committed Friends supporters and volunteers who devote resources and countless hours to the Library are also as diverse as San Francisco itself.

Being open requires financial and political support from the community, including advocacy for key legislation that safeguards funding for the Library. As a member-based,

non-profit organization that represents thousands of library supporters, Friends mobilizes San Francisco residents who tirelessly advocate with policy makers and the voting public. These efforts have yielded outstanding results: in 2007, Friends helped pass Proposition D, an important ballot measure that not only ensures the Library can continue to provide a wide range of services, but also funds growth in the form of building initiatives, expanded collections, extended open hours, and increased programming.

Finally, as the recipient of public funds, donations, and grants, openness reflects the Library's and Friends' responsibility to describe how they steward those funds and use them to benefit all San Franciscans. It is in that spirit that we warmly invite you to read more about the Library's and Friends' programs, accomplishments, and vision for the future.



Above: Patrons are eager to enter the newly constructed Portola Branch Library on its opening day

Below: The atrium of the San Francisco Main Library offers a bright, welcoming entrance to the library



EXECUTIVE LETTERS

JEWELLE GOMEZ PRESIDENT, SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

The Library has always been vital part of my life and I know it is an integral part of this community. Step into any of San Francisco's libraries and you step into a world of possibilities.

We prove it is possible to take a beloved public institution and make it even more accessible. Library use increased 16 percent in 2008-09, 73,000 library cards were issued and 1.3 million more items were circulated in the system.

That it is possible to take a traditional resource and make it even more essential for today's needs with increased computers, wireless access and multitudes of online materials aimed at connecting with our patrons wherever and whenever. In a world rapidly changing with new technology, the Library recognizes that free access to information is critical to San Franciscans and we strive to provide it to as many people as possible.

That it is possible to take an organization that has been at the historic forefront of renewing resources and make it even greener, through new library cards, the implementation of more environmental practices and the addition of new informative programs to help our community live a greener life.

That it is possible to take small neighborhood branch libraries and restore or transform them into new, energetic facilities with the flexibility to grow and adapt in the years to come.

That it is possible to reflect one of the most diverse communities in the world by providing an equally diverse collection of materials and programs that accommodate the needs of all our patrons.

Through this report, I hope you gain a sense of the many possibilities that have so fortunately become realities in the San Francisco Public Library. They have been the result of a close relationship with Friends of the San Francisco Public Library, which has ensured that San Franciscans receive the first rate public library system they deserve. We also want to recognize the dedicated support of our staff, our community and the city of San Francisco in creating a library system filled with possibilities of which we can all be proud.

LUIS HERRERA CITY LIBRARIAN

The San Francisco Public Library is built on a foundation of openness: open to new ideas, to the voices in our community and to the sharing of knowledge. As the San Francisco Public Library enters its 130th year, we can take pride in this resource that welcomes all.

With library usage at record levels, we have opened more libraries more hours each week. Our expanded-hours program ensures that all 27 branch libraries in the system are open at least six days a week while 10 branch libraries plus the Main are open every day of the week. We have also opened more new and renovated libraries. We will reach the halfway point this year in our ambitious Branch Library Improvement Program that will see the renovation or construction of 24 libraries, strengthening our service to all communities in the City.

San Francisco's public libraries are true community centers and anchors in their neighborhoods, providing access to new technology for all. Throughout the City, we are enhancing literacy skills for our youngest patrons, offering classes, job resources and programs that educate and entertain teens and adults, and bringing important resources, information and connection to seniors.

The Library also remains at the forefront of innovative ideas. This year we have worked to become stewards for the environment through new ecologically sound processes and informative public programs. We also support the needs of our diverse community with citizenship tools and expanded multilingual resources. And we have become a Bay Area destination through our thought-provoking exhibitions and events that highlight our past and enlighten our future. We look forward to a new year of library service, open to all.

DONNA BERO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FSFPL

What remarkable times these are for the San Francisco Public Library. Our libraries are needed – and visited – more than ever before. In neighborhoods across San Francisco, from Marina to Portola, Bayview to Richmond, people from all backgrounds are turning to their libraries for a wide variety of resources and services that educate, inspire and empower. Throughout the city, our libraries play a powerful part in people's lives.

At Friends of the San Francisco Public Library, we are proud to support this outstanding civic institution. The Library's contributions to our City are immense and far-reaching; at a time when public resources are shrinking drastically, our libraries are growing and improving the ways in which they provide for the diverse community they serve. We invite you to join us in celebrating their success – and thank you for helping make it possible.

Each day, Friends connects thousands of people throughout San Francisco with their local libraries. The Neighborhood Library Campaign, the largest effort of our nearly fifty year history, has unified people from all walks of life who come together to achieve a shared goal: to build better libraries for stronger communities. At the same time, Friends has provided the Library with record financial support, grown our book donating and selling operations, and strengthened our partnerships with writers, educators and literary groups.

Although the philanthropic support we provide is significant, the Library requires strong public support as well, and we leverage our charitable work on its behalf. Friends' advocacy efforts have enabled robust and consistent public funding

of San Francisco's 28 libraries. In 2007, our work toward the passage of Proposition D ensured long term funding for the Library. Since that victory, in the face of considerable challenges to public funding due to the economic decline, we have raised our voices and spoken out for our City's need for great libraries, open to all. Thanks to our extraordinary library advocates, our civic leaders understand that an investment in the Library yields the best possible return: a healthy community.

Friends' mission, to support the Library and the community it serves, has never been more urgent. Hundreds of thousands of people turn to our beloved public libraries for information, help in finding jobs, free access to the Internet, and entertainment – and the demand continues to grow. Our work is vital to ensuring our libraries continue to meet community needs. We are grateful to all those who have supported the Library over the years, and hope that you will join us in looking forward to all that's ahead.



San Francisco Public Library





More than 5,000 residents came through the doors of the Richmond/Senator Milton Marks Branch Library at its reopening celebration, May 16, 2009.

OPEN TO COMMUNITIES

Recently passing the halfway mark, the San Francisco Public Library's Branch Library Improvement Program and Friends' Neighborhood Library Campaign have touched every community in the City. The capital improvement program, funded through bond measures, along with the remarkable work of neighborhood fundraising teams, community groups, and donors, encompasses and affects 24 library facilities.

MAIN LIBRARY FINISHES FIRST

The first renovation since the Main Library's 1996 opening was completed on January 16, 2008. The First Floor reopened to much celebrating, with 6,000 more square feet of public space, three times more titles on the open shelves, an expanded AV center, and additional public computers and self-checkout stations. A new automated sorting unit was also installed, allowing staff to return items to the public shelves within 24 hours of return.

BRANCH LIBRARY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (BLIP) BUILDS FOR COMMUNITIES

The largest building campaign in San Francisco Public Library history, BLIP has ambitious goals: the renovation of 16 branches, the replacement of four leased facilities with City-owned buildings, the replacement of three branches with new buildings, and the construction of the brand-new Mission Bay branch, the first new branch library built in 40 years. Each branch will incorporate 21st century technology and is designed to meet current and emerging community needs. All designs will integrate green building features and 10 projects will meet or exceed a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver rating.

The program strengthens communities by promoting access to knowledge, supporting education, and making San

Francisco a better place to live. By addressing structural issues of safety, accessibility and age, BLIP safeguards libraries for years to come. Increased seating, computers, meeting spaces, and collections draw new users—and the revitalized children's rooms and new teen centers expand capacity to reach San Francisco families.

As of November 2009, renovations or new buildings are complete for the Excelsior, Glen Park, Marina, Mission Bay, Noe Valley, Portola, Richmond, Sunset, West Portal, Western Addition, Ingleside, and Eureka Valley branches. Circulation and patron visits are up more than 50 percent in newly opened branches, and the inviting spaces, enhanced technology, and expanded collections are proving effective in meeting the emerging demand in each neighborhood. With eight projects currently under construction and four in design, BLIP will soon deliver another wave of refreshed and new neighborhood libraries.

AMBITIOUS NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARY CAMPAIGN UNITES SAN FRANCISCANS

More than half complete, the \$16 million Neighborhood Library Campaign (NLC) is an unprecedented Friends capital campaign. Mobilizing thousands of people from all walks of life, the NLC exemplifies San Francisco at its best: people as diverse as the City itself, stepping forward to ensure a healthy future for the Library. From teens to senior citizens, from teachers to firefighters, from the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to local neighborhood associations, Friends is organizing throughout San Francisco to raise much-needed funds.

"Attending meetings of our neighborhood campaign committee was amazing," said one volunteer. "You saw all sorts of people, from high school students to retirees, working side by side to improve the neighborhood and our

local library.”

Bringing together thousands of San Francisco residents, Friends’ NLC has raised funds for the branch libraries, not only providing much-needed equipment and furnishings for the libraries, but also building deep neighborhood support for the branches that will ensure a strong library for decades to come.



Civic leaders break ground for a new library.

THE HEART OF A NEIGHBORHOOD: THE NEW PORTOLA BRANCH

The Branch Library Improvement Program and Neighborhood Library Campaign are transforming neighborhoods across San Francisco. The Portola Branch is just one example of the branch libraries that have reopened in recent years and, in connection with their reopening, revitalized their surrounding communities.

After many years in a leased facility on busy San Bruno Avenue, the Portola Branch reopened in 2009 in a welcoming 6,300-square-foot facility. Adjoining two local schools on a corner with plentiful parking, the new Library pays homage to the neighborhood’s traditional flower gardens with colorful, fused-glass panels designed by artist Dana Zed.

Working hand-in-hand with community members, the Library envisioned and completed a new facility that meets many long-held neighborhood needs: a safe, quiet place for children and teens to study, a community meeting room, a facility fully accessible to the disabled, and a flexible floor plan that can be reconfigured for a variety of events.

Organized by Friends, the Portola Library Campaign Committee has raised nearly \$100,000 to pay for furnishings, fixtures, and equipment through fundraising and events, including a garden tour that is becoming a neighborhood tradition.

Commenting on the opening, City Librarian Luis Herrera noted, “A brand new library in the Portola neighborhood will serve a multicultural community of children, teens and seniors for generations to come.”

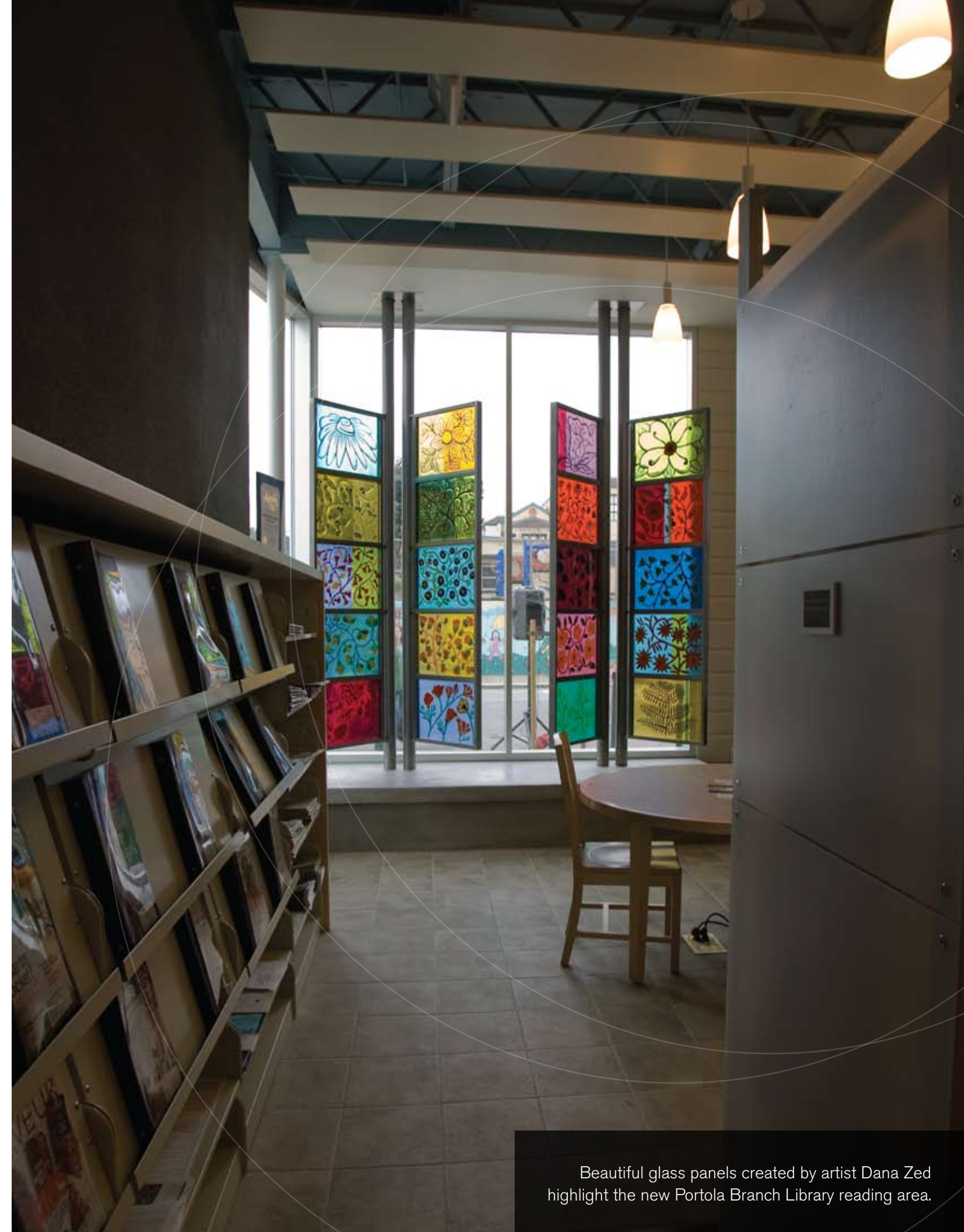
“The library doesn’t just give us a place for our kids to study and residents to borrow materials,” said volunteer Cheryl Olinger, who served on the campaign committee and frequents the library with her two young sons. “It helps define Portola by giving it a community center, and it’s a symbol of our pride in our beautiful, diverse neighborhood.”

COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUPS PROVIDE CRITICAL INPUT

In addition to Friends, two citizen advisory groups provide important input into the development of library programs and services.

An advisory organization to the Library, the Council of Neighborhood Libraries (CNL) promotes dialogue among and between branch libraries, neighborhoods, and City decision-makers. Council members identify and champion branch needs, serve as an important conduit for neighborhood input, and promote public awareness of library services.

The Library Citizen’s Advisory Committee (LCAC), in turn, advises the Board of Supervisors on the major issues facing the Library. It looks at ways to enhance service to community, and makes recommendations to City Supervisors on library expenditures and operations.



Beautiful glass panels created by artist Dana Zed highlight the new Portola Branch Library reading area.

OPEN AROUND THE CLOCK



Bookmobiles ensure that all neighborhoods receive library service, even when branches are closed for renovations.

As San Franciscans' schedules become more complex, the Library has offered more convenient access points. Through extended open hours, the Library provides evening and weekend access that meets the needs of its users. By flexibly utilizing new technology, the Library offers 24-hour access to its catalog, including downloadable materials that can be enjoyed anytime and anywhere.

EXTENDED OPEN HOURS ACROSS THE CITY

Over the past two years the Library has provided an unprecedented boost in access for users, with a 10.5 percent overall increase in open hours. An entire day of service was added to nine libraries in 2007 and to eight more libraries in 2008.

The plan for expanding library hours was based on a study identifying the geographic areas that would most benefit from additional library service, with input from a wide variety of community groups.

Extended open hours mean that people who work during the week enjoy more opportunities to use library services over the weekend. By adding morning and evening hours during weekdays, the Library better serves child care groups and students after school.

TECHNOLOGY ALLOWS SAN FRANCISCANS ACCESS TO THE LIBRARY AROUND THE CLOCK

Access to the library catalog is as close as the nearest computer. Through the Library's website, patrons can browse library holdings, place holds, arrange for pick-up at the Main Library or any branch and renew borrowed items. Automated e-mail alerts notify patrons of the arrival of requested materials, and remind them of upcoming due dates.

By expanding its collection of downloadable audiobooks, e-books, music and video, the Library has brought its collections even closer to its users. Library card holders have access to digital media they can enjoy on their computer, transfer to a supported device like an MP3 player, or burn to a CD. Downloadable resources are immediately available, and since downloading rights expire at the end of the lending period, patrons never incur late fees.

While continuing to expand services available through the Internet, the Library is committed to bridging the digital divide by offering free access to computers, along with technology classes such as word processing, Internet basics, and the use of online resources—all available at no charge. In 2009, a new laptop lending program enabled hundreds of patrons to access computer resources at branch libraries, even during the busiest times.

BOOKMOBILES ENSURE CONTINUOUS ACCESS TO MATERIALS

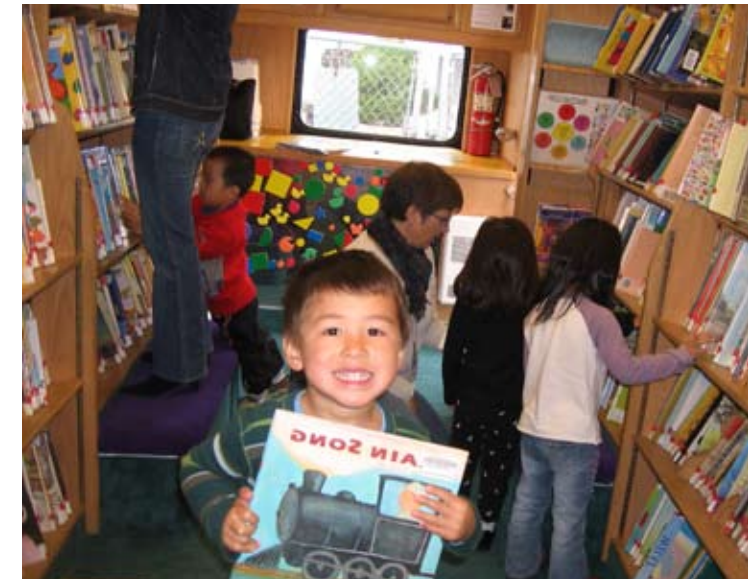
The Branch Library Improvement Program has required many branches to close temporarily, but the library bookmobiles ensure that service continues uninterrupted throughout the City.

The bookmobiles provide materials for adults, teens, and children, including CDs and DVDs, magazines, and books in English, Chinese, and Spanish. Onboard the bookmobiles, patrons can obtain library cards, make interlibrary loan requests, and receive limited reference services. A wheelchair-accessible bookmobile is used for the Library on Wheels program, providing a dedicated collection of materials of interest to seniors. A children's bookmobile makes more than 50 stops per month at preschools, transitional housing, Boys & Girls clubs, and public housing developments. Bookmobiles also promote the Library through regular appearances at street festivals and other public events.



Above: The availability of public computers makes the Library an even more valuable resource for all residents.

Below: Children enjoy visiting the library's bookmobiles and checking out books.



SFPL Bookmobiles' circulation increased by 28% in 2009

OPEN TO PROGRESS

At the San Francisco Public Library, progress means preparing for the future intelligently. Library programs provide an engine for business growth and expanded economic opportunity, but also reflect a commitment to careful stewardship of the earth's limited natural resources.



To coincide with the green theme of the 2009 summer reading program, children at the Mission Branch Library enjoyed fruit smoothies blended by bicycle power

GREEN STACKS PROGRAM SIGNALS LIBRARY COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY

By their very nature, libraries bring together citizens to share resources, be they intellectual resources like books, media, and the assistance of trained library staff, or community resources offered by meeting rooms, exhibition space, and training facilities.

The Green Stacks program celebrates and promotes the Library's commitment to environmental sustainability. Providing information on issues like global warming and the food supply chain and resources for recycling and composting, Green Stacks' mission also encompasses exhibitions and creative programs, such as craft projects using recycled materials. Library patrons can borrow materials with the Library's new Ecocard, which is corn-based and fully biodegradable.

Green Stacks benefits from the resources provided by the Wallace Stegner Environmental Center, a collection of more than 1,400 books and periodicals on environmental topics housed in the Main Library.

Sustainability also extends to library buildings. As neighborhood libraries are built and renovated through the Branch Library Improvement Program, library architects strive to build to LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver certification or higher. Across all facilities, the Library is committed to recycling as much as possible and to the use of environmentally-friendly cleaning products, as well as the efficient use of lighting, heating, and other resources.

RESOURCES FOR SMALL BUSINESS AND JOB SEEKERS

The Library's Business, Science & Technology Center offers information ranging from start-up resources to market research databases, from directories of local companies to guides to U.S. and international trade. The Jobs and Careers Center focuses on the needs of job seekers and career changers, including cover letter and resume preparation, salary and wage research, and both short-term and long-range career planning.

More than ever, a job hunt requires access to the Internet. The Library provides free access to the Internet through computers in the Main Library and branches. Users can reserve a computer in advance, or take advantage of the drop-in Job Seekers' Computer Lab. Free classes on online job search databases, e-mail basics, and Internet search skills also are available.

FINE AMNESTY REMOVES OBSTACLES FOR THOUSANDS OF PATRONS

In May 2009, the Library implemented a two-week fine amnesty period waiving fines for any returned overdue materials, allowing many patrons to restore their borrowing privileges while making more items available for public circulation. More than 29,000 overdue items were recovered with a total value of approximately \$730,000. Included in that total were 3,151 books that were more than 60 days overdue and therefore "assumed lost," or unlikely to be returned. The value of those long-overdue items was nearly \$79,000. Among those older materials was a copy of George Bernard Shaw's *Man and Superman* with a due date stamp of January 29, 1964, making it more than 45 years overdue from the Presidio Branch.

In 2009 attendance at online job-hunting classes increased 64%

SFPL provides patrons with more digital resources than ever before.



OPEN TO LEARNING

Unique among institutions, the Library provides services to all members of the community, from infants to retirees. By providing access to knowledge and information, it improves San Franciscans' quality of life.

FORGING CONNECTIONS WITH THE YOUNGEST MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY

A wide range of programs for children are offered to meet the diverse needs of our youngest residents as well as their parents and caregivers. These programs support early literacy skills, educational and recreational enrichment, and reading as a key to future achievement. More than 200,000 attendees a year participate in age-appropriate programs such as baby rhyme time, toddler tales, and preschool story time, as well as special arts, education and cultural programs, including chess and reading clubs. Through the Children's Story Line service, available via telephone, children aged 3-5 can enjoy stories and songs in English, Spanish, or Cantonese. The Library's Summer Reading Club reaches more than 15,000 children across the City each year, encouraging children to read as many books as possible. The program inspires a new generation of readers and library users while fostering the development of literacy skills.

By providing opportunities to build social and developmental skills, interact with neighbors in a supportive environment, and explore a diversity of cultures, these programs contribute to the emotional and developmental health of the City's children.

MEETING ADOLESCENTS WHERE THEY ARE

Teen Programs offer cultural, educational, and recreational events that promote the use of library resources and provide safe, healthy activities and a welcoming environment. These programs increase opportunities for teens to build social skills, interact with different generations, acquire mentors,

and practice critical thinking skills. More than 15,000 teens per year participate in library programs such as Summer Reading, SAT preparation workshops, class research instruction, and teen advisory councils. Recognizing that middle school and high school students are avid users of technology for accessing information, the Library offers the opportunity to contact a librarian or tutor via Instant Message and communicate via a Teen Information Blog.

At the Juvenile Justice Center and Log Cabin Ranch, the Library provides services to approximately 150 incarcerated youth each year. In addition to offering a full range of reading materials on a regular basis, the program has expanded to feature visits from prominent authors; recreational and educational collaborations with City Youth Now, the East Bay Vivarium and the San Francisco Zoomobile; and an after-school study hall program that connects youth with online resources via dedicated laptops, including distance learning opportunities through City College.

In sum, the Library's teen programs promote healthy youth development, increase cultural literacy, and contribute to violence prevention citywide.

PROJECT READ OPENS DOORS FOR ADULT LEARNERS

In San Francisco, an estimated 80,000 adults experience difficulty with basic reading and writing. Now in its 26th year, Project Read creates partnerships between volunteer tutors and adult learners, resulting in improved literacy skills that can open doors in life.

Project Read changes lives. Says Leon Veal, Outreach Coordinator for Project Read: "A number of years ago, we were approached by a young woman who was having a rough time in life. She aspired to do something about it and was matched with a Project Read tutor. She went on to college and recently was accepted to law school!"



Preschool storytime attendance increased 43% for a total of nearly 40,000 last year.

OPEN TO THE CULTURES OF SAN FRANCISCO

The Library is honored to serve a diverse city. While diversity can be defined in many ways—through gender, age, ethnicity, and language background, to name just a few—the underlying principle remains the same. The Library respects differences and welcomes all San Franciscans to explore its collections and take part in its programs.

LIBRARY COLLECTIONS REFLECT THE COMMUNITY

San Franciscans are privileged to live in a city where many languages are spoken. The Library values linguistic diversity and offers a variety of non-English materials to meet the needs of San Franciscans—whether they are native speakers or language learners—throughout the library system. Collections include fiction as well as non-fiction materials on popular subjects such as cooking, computers, travel, and poetry. Larger international language collections at branches include:

- Chinese, at the Chinatown Branch
- Japanese, at Western Addition Branch
- Russian, at Richmond Branch
- Spanish, at Mission Branch

A SYSTEM-WIDE RESOURCE, THE INTERNATIONAL CENTER AT THE MAIN LIBRARY OFFERS MATERIALS IN 40 LANGUAGES.

The Main Library's Affinity Center Collections, in the African American, Chinese, Filipino American, and the James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian centers, and branch library interest collections, reflect the experiences of specific ethnic and community groups in the United States. The major interest collections include:

- African-American Interest at Bayview Branch
- Chinese Interest at Chinatown Branch
- Filipino Interest at Excelsior Branch
- Japanese Interest at Western Addition Branch
- Latino Interest at Mission Branch
- LGBT Interest at the Eureka Valley/ Harvey Milk Branch

CITIZENSHIP TOOLKIT MAKES PREPARING FOR THE NATURALIZATION EXAM EASIER

To help San Franciscans prepare for the recently redesigned U.S. naturalization examination, the Library launched an online U.S. Citizenship Toolkit in 2008. The Toolkit is provided in English, Spanish, Cantonese, Mandarin, and Russian.

Intended as a nationwide resource for immigrants, the Toolkit offers information about the benefits of becoming a U.S. citizen, the naturalization process, and whether or when to seek legal help during the process. The site includes a short video in each language that describes the available information, as well as links to community support agencies and resources for English language learners.

"We are proud to be a frontline resource for those with questions about the U.S. naturalization process, and hope that many library users will find the Toolkit useful as they consider applying for citizenship," says Luis Herrera, City Librarian.

EXHIBITIONS FROM SAN FRANCISCO AND BEYOND

The Library hosts museum-quality exhibitions, with facilities including the 1,500 square-foot Jewett Gallery and the 2,200 square-foot Skylight Gallery, both located in the Main Library. Exhibitions contribute to the rich cultural life of San Francisco, and bring in artists and perspectives from far beyond the City's borders. Featured media range from photography to the book arts, from archival materials to cultural artifacts. Additional exhibition space is available throughout the Main Library and in branches, and the Library invites members of the community to submit proposals for future exhibitions.

INTERNATIONAL POETRY FESTIVAL RETURNS IN 2009

In 2007, Friends of the San Francisco Public Library organized the International Poetry Festival in partnership with the Mayor's Office and the Library. The citywide celebration drew an audience of thousands for poetry and music events, all open to the public at no charge.

Returning in 2009, the Festival welcomed 26 poets from around the world. Guest poets representing such wide-ranging countries as Bangladesh, China, France, Greece, Haiti, Iraq, Israel and Sudan, read together with representatives of San Francisco's thriving literary community. In addition to readings, the Festival included book signings, youth events, and translation workshops.

Friends also organizes smaller poetry festivals in a variety of languages, such as the Iranian Literary Arts Festival, Vietnamese Poets of the Diaspora and Flor y Canto en el Barrio: A Celebration of Latino Poetry—all in the service of two core Friends values: celebrating the literary arts and building bridges between cultures.

The library carries items in more than 40 languages, and library staff members speak more than 20 languages.



Above: A diverse range of museum-quality exhibitions are on view at the Main Library and at branches

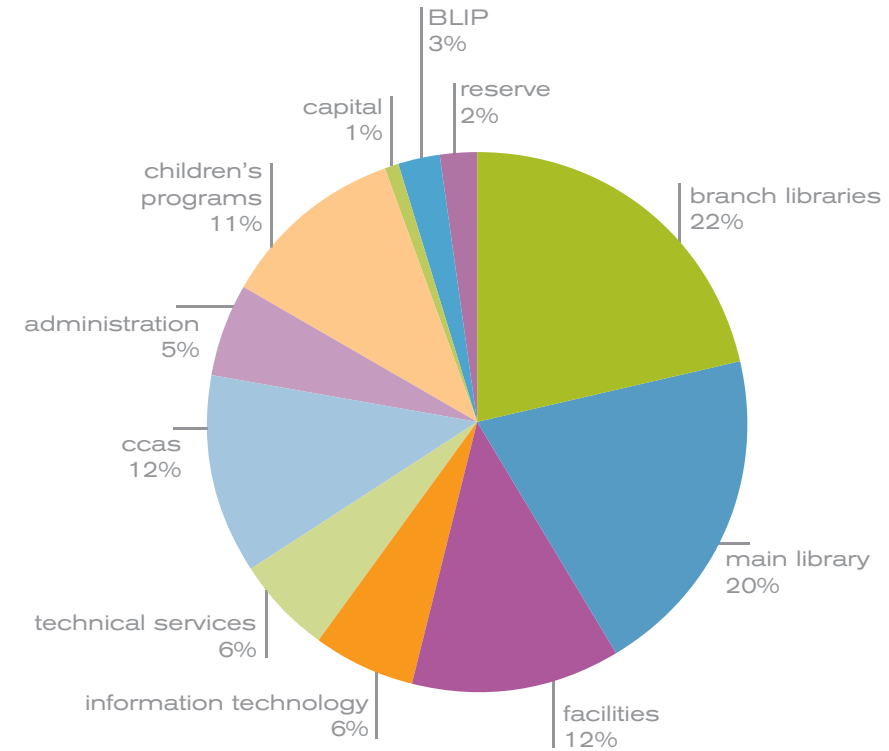
Below: The San Francisco International Poetry Festival provides a showcase for world renowned poets as well as local treasures like Lawrence Ferlinghetti



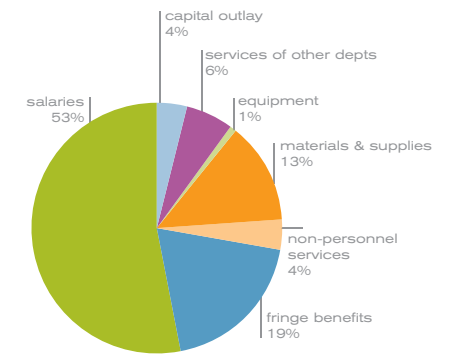
A library patron



SF PUBLIC LIBRARY BUDGET BY PROGRAM
2007, 2008



SF PUBLIC LIBRARY USES OF FUNDS
2007, 2008



FACTS & FIGURES

COLLECTIONS, RESOURCES & SERVICES

	2007-2008	2008-2009
Patron Visits	5,963,197	6,337,966
Card Holders	337,154	353,995
Circulation	8,334,391	9,638,160
In Library Use of Materials	3,517,971	3,222,553
Reference Questions	899,419	1,024,680
SFPL Web Page Uses	13,354,169	15,594,408
SFPL Web Page Uses in Chinese & Spanish	470,998	547,102
Items Added to the Collection	262,753	406,852
Items Added to the Collection in International Languages	50,394	65,132
Items Bound and Repaired for Public Use	25,351	26,668

PUBLIC PROGRAMS & TRAINING

Public Programs	8,409	9,035
Attendance at Public Programs	290,581	353,937
Attendance at Public Trainings/Instructional Classes for Adults	3,359	5,238
Programs/Instructional Visits for School Classes	2,952	2,819
Attendance at Programs for School Classes	75,265	81,208
Attendance at Early Literacy Workshops	1,379	1,375



The 2008 Big Book Sale was the most successful sale to date, raising over \$265,000 for education programs.

OPEN TO COLLABORATION

To continue to provide its wealth of programs and services, the Library needs stable, continuous funding. Securing and preserving this funding, in turn, could not be possible without the education, advocacy, and outreach efforts of Friends.

RAISING AWARENESS OF THE VALUE OF LIBRARIES

A non-profit, member-supported organization with more than 5,000 member households and a generous donor base, Friends is dedicated to creating, stewarding, and supporting the best public library system in the country, and to promoting San Francisco's proud literary heritage. In the words of Friends Board member Kim Drew, "The Friends make a great library even greater."

Friends recognizes that community support of the Library cannot be taken for granted; it must remain vigilant in communicating the value of the Library to lawmakers and the voting public. Friends reaches out to lawmakers, local leaders, journalists, schools, community groups, and neighborhood associations, to name just a few groups, raising awareness of library programs and services, ballot measures, and opportunities to support the Library as a volunteer or donor. Testimony to the success of Friends' grassroots organizing efforts, its Neighborhood Library Campaign has raised more than half of its \$16 million target.

Recognizing the importance of communicating the value of libraries both qualitatively and quantitatively, Friends sponsored a study in 2007 to calculate the Library's return on investment. Conducted by Berk and Associates, a research and economic analysis firm, the study revealed that the Library generates a return of \$3.34 for every dollar spent on its operations and services. The economic and social benefits of the library include promoting early literacy, contributing to economic and workforce development, strengthening communities, enhancing the image and identity of San Francisco, and facilitating personal learning.

PROPOSITION D PROTECTS LIBRARY FUNDING

Passed in 2007 with nearly 75% voter approval, Proposition D will bring in more than \$1.2 billion to the Library from 2008-2022 without raising taxes. Proposition D renewed the Library Preservation Fund, established in 1994 to create a stable funding source for the Library; it also granted the City the authority to issue revenue bonds to ensure that the Branch Library Improvement Program can continue to renovate branch libraries. Friends staff successfully worked with political and community leaders at the local, state and national levels to gain support and endorsements for the measure, while hundreds of volunteers campaigned to ensure that voters understood the vital importance of Proposition D.

Proposition D was the fourth in a series of important library support ballot measures that Friends helped pass. In 1988, Friends championed Proposition A, a bond issue that funded over \$100 million to build the new Main Library. A charter amendment created the Library Preservation Fund in 1994, while the \$106 million bond measure passed in 2000 provided key funding for the Branch Library Improvement Program.

The 2007 passage of Proposition D ensures \$1.2 billion in library funding through 2022.



Friends' advocacy efforts have ensured the passage of four city-wide ballot measures and have secured the support of hundreds of thousands of voters across San Francisco



Below: Breaking ground for the new Visitacion Valley Branch Library which is expected to open in 2010



OPEN TO YOUR SUPPORT

Being open is a principle that weaves through the Library's and Friends' many programs and initiatives. Whether as donors or volunteers, the support of community members is vital to ensuring that the Library can continue to offer these programs, while responding to current and future needs.

A DEBT OF GRATITUDE TO VOLUNTEERS AND DONORS

The work of Friends would not be possible without the generous support of the San Franciscans who have provided financial and in-kind donations to support its mission.

Community members support Friends through generously sharing their time and talents—as advocates at public meetings, book sorting staff, Festival event staff and volunteer literacy tutors, to name just a few volunteer roles.

Contact Friends at 415-626-7500 to learn how you can become involved as a donor, volunteer, or community advocate.

NEW DONATION CENTER EXPANDS SPACE SIXFOLD

One of Friends' most visible programs, the Book Bay shops in the Main Library and Fort Mason Center are open year-round. Through book sale activity, Friends raises hundreds of thousands of dollars annually.

In 2008, Friends realized its long-held dream of a new Donation Center to house books and other media materials. At 5,000 square feet, the new facility is six times larger than its predecessor, and the new location in the Mission District offers convenient access for volunteers from throughout San Francisco.

Additional space allows Friends to process each donation more efficiently and nearly double its volunteer capacity. More room for books and other media translates into more items in stores and sales, and a nearly 500 percent increase in potential online sales.

Handling more than a million items each year, the Book Donation Center relies on Friends' cadre of more than 700 volunteers—some of whom have served as volunteers for decades. In 2008 alone, Friends volunteers supported the Library by donating more than 39,000 hours of work, at a value of more than \$850,000.

Each week, over 150 dedicated individuals volunteer for Friends.



Attendance at infant storytime programs reached more than 70,000 in 2008, an increase of 63% from the previous year.



SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

The San Francisco Public Library is a department of the City and County of San Francisco. Oversight is provided by the Library Commission, a seven member body appointed by the Mayor of San Francisco.

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

Lonnie Chin	(1/22/96 – present)
Carlota Del Portillo	(1/15/08 – present)
Jewelle Gomez	(2/18/05 – present)
Larry Kane	(4/13/05 – present)
Mel Lee	(1/15/08 – present)
A. Lee Munson	(4/20/06 – present)
Teresa Ono	(5/21/09 – present)
Al Harris	(1/15/08 – 5/07/09)
Helen Marte Bautista	(6/15/00 – 1/15/08)
Steven A. Coulter	(1/22/96 – 1/15/08)
Charles A. Higuera	(1/22/96 – 1/15/08)

FRIENDS OF THE SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2007 - 2009)

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- City Librarian (Ex-Officio)** / Luis Herrera
- Chair** / Darin Buchalter
- Vice-Chair** / Deirdre Hockett
- Secretary** / Kim Drew
- Treasurer** / Stephen Kaufman

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Tyrone Cannon	Deirdre Hockett	Rona Sandler	Rich Walsh
Inger Dewey Golob	Mikiko Huang	Bing Shen	Peter Wiley
Kim Drew	Stephen Kaufman	Bob Shultz	Sophie Ziegler

OPEN TO YOU

The Library and Friends welcome your ideas, suggestions, and support. Most of all, we urge you to use the Library's collections, programs, and services. Whether accessed online or offline, at the Main Library or a local branch or a bookmobile, the Library is always open to you.

www.sfpl.org

www.friendssfpl.org



San Francisco Public Library

FRIENDS *of the*
SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY

