



Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Branch Library Renovation Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What are the plans for the branch?

A. The project provides for a complete renovation including seismic strengthening, accessibility improvements, energy-efficiency and technology upgrades. The historic integrity of this 1916 Carnegie landmark will be maintained and the building restored to its original grandeur. A small expansion is planned to accommodate an elevator and recoup space needed for disabled access, seismic work, and building system upgrades.

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

- Seismic strengthening
- Accessible entry
- A designated Teen Area
- Renovated program room for library and community programs
- Access to deck and garden area
- Fully accessible restrooms
- Quiet adult reading area
- A safe accessible elevator
- Accessible after hours book drop
- Improved landscaping to showcase the wonderful façade
- Infrastructure to provide modern technologies and flexibility for the future
- More welcoming and flexible Children's Area
- Better lighting
- New and restored furniture
- Clearer signage
- More computers with access to the Internet and library online resources
- Restored historic features such as windows, ceilings, and woodwork
- Express checkout machines
- Wireless (Wi-Fi) access to the internet
- Comfortable seating and variety of seating choices

Q. When will the branch be closed and for how long?

A. The branch closed on February 11, 2006 and is scheduled to reopen spring 2008. During the renovation, library services will be provided by increasing hours at nearby branches, holding children's programs at Bethany United Methodist Church (1268 Sanchez St. @ Clipper) and by a bookmobile located in front of St. Philip's School (665 Elizabeth St. between Diamond & Castro).

Q. Who are the architects?

A. Carey & Co. Architecture of San Francisco.

Q. Will the amount of books and seating remain the same?

A. Because of the efficiency of the new furniture and shelving, there is space for a small increase in shelving. New materials (books, CDs, DVDs, videos, books on tape, etc.) will be purchased during closure to keep the collection current. Also, the collection will be easier to find on new shelves in an improved layout. The expansion is needed for increased accessibility and new restrooms.

Q. What happens to the existing furniture?

A. Historic pieces will be restored, and some of the furniture will be replaced. The Library has developed interior design guidelines to help the architects and staff choose or restore 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 community needs assessment was conducted in fall 2003 by consultant Marilyn Smulyan, who interviewed key community stakeholders about materials, facilities, and services at the branch and analyzed a survey of 494 people. Five community meetings plus a two-day Design Workshop were held to discuss designs, landscaping, furniture & finishes, and interim services (March 2002, September 2002, October 2003, May 2004, September 2004, & September 2005). The Library Commission held a Peer Review in May 2004 where an independent architect, historic preservationist, and an interior designer publicly reviewed the design.

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. 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 626-7512 x 103 to help with this campaign.

Q. How much does construction cost for the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Branch?

A. The Library Commission took action in May 2005 and January 2006 which increased the construction budget to \$4.3 million, not including furniture, equipment, and soft costs.

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.

We voted to renovate and build new branch libraries across the City. It's happening!