



City & County of San Francisco Branch Library Improvement Program

Presidio Branch Library Renovation Frequently Asked Questions

What are the plans for the branch?

The Presidio Branch Library is an historic two-level Carnegie library built in 1921. In the early 1990's, it was seismically upgraded and brought into compliance for disabled access. The interior of the facility will be remodeled, while preserving its historic character.

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

- After hours book drop at ground level
- Two new restrooms downstairs and a family restroom upstairs
- Improved downstairs Program Room
- Designated Teen Area
- More comfortable seating and a variety of seating choices
- Children's Room with interactive early learning features
- More computers
- Wireless (Wi-Fi) access to the internet
- Express self-check out machines
- Improved lighting and power
- More functional & ergonomic staff work areas
- Exterior stair and terra cotta repairs
- New display areas
- More stroller parking
- Clearer signage
- New pendant light fixtures
- Green Building (LEED Silver)

When will the branch be closed and for how long?

The branch is scheduled to close for construction in summer 2009 and reopen in 2010. During renovation, library services will be provided by holding programs at neighborhood schools and community centers and by bookmobile service. Closing may be delayed due to design issues, complications arising from the bidding, contracting or permit process, or other matters.

What about the Landscaping?

The Library is working with the San Francisco Garden Club to develop and fund a plan to improve the landscaping around the branch.

Is the building an historic Landmark?

The building has been given Landmark status. The plans conform to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation & Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings.

Who are the architects?

The joint venture team of Field Paoli and Joseph Chow & Associates.

Will the amount of books increase?

After the interior remodel, the collection (books, CDs, DVDs, audio books, etc.) capacity will increase slightly. New materials will be purchased during closure to keep the collection current. Also, materials will be easier to find on new shelves in an improved layout. The size of the building is not increasing.

What happens to the existing furniture?

Most of the furniture will be replaced. The original historic perimeter shelving and trims will be restored. The Library has developed interior design guidelines to help 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 May 2007, where 300 people gave their opinion about materials, facilities, and services at the branch. Two community meetings took place at the branch to discuss designs (July 2008 and January 2009). In February 2009, the Library Commission will hold a Peer Review where an independent architect and library professional will publicly review the design. As the design process moves forward, the Library will hold additional community meetings.

Where does the money come from to renovate the branch?

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. Even though some modifications were made in the early 90's, the building needs system upgrades and an internal remodel. 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 x 103 to help with the Friends campaign.

How much does it cost to remodel the Presidio Branch?

The project has a budget of about \$2.4 million to remodel the building, not including furniture and equipment and exterior improvements. All designs are subject to change to meet this fixed budget limit.

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.