



SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY

COMMUNITY MEETING NOTES: VISITACION VALLEY BRANCH LIBRARY

Location: Visitacion Valley Recreational Center

When: Thursday, October 25, 2007
7:00 p.m.

Attendees:	Public	30
	Elected official	1
	Library Commission	1
	DPW/BOA	5
	Library Administration	3
	Branch staff	2
	Friends of SFPL	1
	<i>Total</i>	43

Agenda: Welcome & Introductions – Mindy Linetzky, Bond Program Administrator
Project overview – Luis Herrera, City Librarian
Design presentation – Andrew Maloney, Rafael Gutierrez, & Melina Markarian, Bureau of Architecture
Library Program Priorities – Brian Bannon, Chief of Branches
Question & Answer Session
Friends of SFPL – Tina Tom, Neighborhood Library Campaign
Adjourn

Summary: Mindy Linetzky welcomed and introduced library and DPW representatives including Luis Herrera, City Librarian; Brian Bannon, Chief of Branches; Elsie Wong, SFPL BLIP Manager; Mindy Lee, Chief of Branches Secretary, Marilyn Thompson, Bond Program Manager, Shelley Sorenson, Branch Librarian and Alice Chang, translator.

Luis gave a brief project overview, which included the project timeline highlights, community vision for the new library, and library priorities. Brian Bannon gave an overview of Library Services Program, which includes dedicated zones (i.e., teen space, children’s room, study room, and the program room), increased collections, enhanced technology (i.e., public computers, wireless, self-checks), and functional public and work spaces (i.e., ADA and ergonomics, comfortable seating, etc.).

Andrew (“Andy”) Maloney, project architect from the Bureau of Architecture’s Library Design Studio, gave a schematic design presentation. He first thanked the Visitacion Valley History Project authors and gave a brief overview of the history of Visitacion Valley, citing various landmarks and civic building in the Visitacion Valley, among which the Visitacion Valley Branch Library will be a significant addition.

Andy was asked to review the original design scheme and create a new design based on the original program requirements (i.e., the types and size collections, space allocation and relationships, entry points, need for Community Room, etc.). The only change was the availability of the 30 foot by 100 foot lot to the west as part of the new building and its grounds.

Andy further elaborated on the new building design. His preliminary designs explored the use of simple building massing and shapes, while incorporating community members' vision into the new design, which included key elements such as clear sight lines, space efficiency, energy efficiency and resource conservation, ample amounts of natural light and ventilation, building to be integrated well into the streetscape, etc. Additionally, Andy looked at clear building axis lines that could organize the spaces both in terms of structure and function, settling on the lower case "t" shape for the building. The layout organizes the site and building as a whole, bringing the interior and exterior spaces together as one entity. Every space is an individual distinct space that links itself to the whole, hence, the cruciform in the shape with a large high central octagon with four wings branching off the north and south facets, respectively.

Supervisor Maxwell commented how excited she was to hear the positive response from the community for this design.

As next steps, the architects will consider the community's suggestions and work with the library staff to further develop the design. Next, the Library Commission will hold a public Peer Review of the plan where an independent architect and another professional will evaluate the design.

Tina Tom, from the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library encouraged people to join their committee to raise funds for the fixtures, furniture, and equipment for the renovated branch.

Community Discussion:

Community Questions/Comments	Response
Are there any stained glass?	It is a great idea. We will have to see if we can afford it. But it could be a great donor opportunity.
The design is much greater than expected. We will have the most beautiful library in the city. Very excited about it.	
How big is the community room? Is it possible to have a bigger community room?	38' x 19' It's comparable to the room we're in and larger than many of our other branches' community room. We can look into a larger room, but there will need to be trade offs with other spaces.
What will be the roof material?	Possibly asphalt. The materials have not been chosen. This is only the schematic design phase.
Suggested conserving water and catching rain water. Install rain barrels, rain catchers.	
Are we going to use the existing basement?	Yes for electrical and mechanical rooms only.
Will the whole library only have 12 public computers?	No, 16 computers are assigned for a library of this size. It will be comparable to the last branch that

	we opened. This plan with 12 computers does not include OPACs (card catalogs) and about 10 laptops.
Where will the delivery trucks pull up for deliveries?	Deliveries will go through the staff area via a different off Rutland.
Some libraries lack space for operational sorting space. Am concerned about the circulation staff having to scan, sort, and shelve materials if there is not enough space for this.	We currently have an intense process to account for ergonomic issues. New technologies will help as well.
If the reference desk isn't set up correctly staff cannot see around the library. They need to keep an eye on the different areas such as the children and teen areas. Can staff see through the arches?	Yes, the arches are open. Sightlines are very important in the design of a library.
Beautiful work of art will be the beacon for this neighborhood.	
Excited that Andy is doing this building. Appreciate the separate Teen space.	
Can we get a tree like at the Mission Bay branch? It doesn't have to be a real tree.	We can look at lounge chairs or possibly a tree in the center of the branch.
Can adults use the children's space during school hours?	Typically, this space is dedicated for children. We advise adults to use other areas of the library, if they are not accompanying children.
This design fulfills vision of "temple of knowledge."	
Why did you choose a Romanesque style of design?	It works, it has been proven, do not believe in reinventing an archetype that already exists. Arches look softer and more graceful.
It reflects some aspects from St. Anne's church and Schlage Lock.	
Does it have to be a LEED Silver building? Can we make it greener than silver? Add solar panels?	We will take a look and consider.
Would you consider hay bales?	Need to research idea. Look at pros and cons. It is possible.
Is there any study rooms?	The study room is off of the Teen Area. It's a separate study room.
How many study rooms are there?	There is one with 4 chairs. Can also use the community room. The study room is not limited to teens.
What about audio?	We will look at this at the next step. We have not looked at specific details yet.
How flexible are the configuration here? It is important, allows for room to grow.	Walls can be removed. It can be flexible.
Can you find space for history? Exhibition space?	Yes, we have display section in the front as you come in.
Is the display for groups or for what?	Can be a combination of exhibition space.

Students want Multilanguage signage for the library.	There will be signage in multiple languages.
How will the rest of the neighborhood find out about these designs?	The design panels will be displayed at the branch library and on our website.
Will this kind of presentation be done again for other people in the community?	We will continue to keep the community informed. There will be a public forum at an upcoming Library Commission meeting.
Because of the configuration, what about the acoustics?	We will consider the walls, and the noise.

Handouts:

- Visitacion Valley General Community Recommendations (dated 9/20/03)
- Floor plans (Design, exterior elevation/ building section, exterior views)
- Visitacion Valley Branch Library Renovation Frequently Asked Questions
- Exit Survey

Vis Valley Branch Community Meeting Exit Survey Responses 10.25.07

What were three things you heard today about the project that were most memorable?

- Enthusiasm by the architect; he’s truly invested.
- Desire to honor requests of residents
- Making the building become the focal point of our neighborhood
- The design!!! It’s great! I’m glad it’s not a box
- Use of natural light and discussion of energy efficiency
- Separate spaces for children and teens
- The design of the building
- Clear explanation and hand-outs
- Questions and answers
- Use of natural light from Roman arched window and ocularium
- The overall design of the library building
- The fact that the library will hopefully complete by 2010
- That the library was trying to be built as greenly as possible
- I like that the architect is so into this project
- Personally, I love hearing about design elements and history (the Art!)
- We have funding and design to move forward
- “Legacy Building”
- Used entire lot
- Formal, Roman influenced design
- Individual – programmed spaces
- Access
- The space with which the project will happen
- The clear explanation
- The design of the building
- The compassion that was put into the project
- Team work
- Liked everything
- Design goes with neighborhood

- Architect enthusiasm for this project / VV history
- Design works for the community
- Groundbreaking Nov 2008
- I like the design
- Good design of the library and I'm really excited to see it as soon as possible
- Good presentation

What three issues do you consider most important to the Visitacion Valley Branch Library?

- To bring it up to the current standards for our youth as well as place for the rest of community to go for inspiration as well as leisurely activities
- Good design integration into community
- Good use of interior space
- Green building
- Enough space for program needs
- A building that is a landmark community building to be proud of
- Green design as much as possible
- More computers
- Bathrooms
- Plazas
- Outstanding and current collection
- State-of-the-art library technology
- Lots of California native landscaping
- Teen rooms, something to get teens out of the house!
- WiFi access for those with laptops (or iPhones)
- More efficient use of space for books
- Light, comfortable
- The books – all kinds (including Chinese and other collections)
- Community-friendly
- Environmentally friendly, thoughtful design
- Multilingual multiethnic materials
- Multilingual staff and signage
- More seat area
- Greener. Go for LEED Gold – solar panels
- Accessibility
- Multicultural collection
- Children/teen space
- The separate teen and children space
- The gorgeous design – thank you
- Size full lot
- Green
- Like interior spaces
- Size – useful lot
- Interior uses – function over form
- Green – use the wind
- To start the project ASAP
- Timeline of construction (from Leland merchants)
- Parking issues around the library

What did you like most about the community meeting?

- The interest by both sides, the community and the local government
- Andy's presentation and visual presentation
- Andy Maloney's presentation which described some of his design process
- This was my first community meeting in many years; I enjoyed it very much!
- The architect
- They used PowerPoint! Always a quick and easy way to get information out
- Andy! Great and talented!
- Informative
- Everyone came together
- Positive meeting
- The architectural plan handout
- The presentation was well organized
- Open discussion
- Good turn out and good info
- Good info
- Friendly presentation
- Good presentation with visual information

What did you like least about the community meeting?

- The lady who demanded bi-lingual signage
- I think that a microphone would have helped
- Hypercritics!
- Very cosy
- No announcement of future opportunity for community input
- Invite/need more youth input
- I thought everything was good
- The location can future meetings be on Saturdays in the AM at Raymoad(?). More people will come
- It's Visitacion Valley – not VisValley – It's like it's not Frisco!
- Not enough outreach to the neighborhood

Is there anything you would like the project team to know that was not said at the meeting?

- I'm very appreciative that finally this neighborhood is receiving the recognition it deserves
- The plans reflect and honor the old world from where our founders came from and also have the clean lines that are seen in the architecture seen around the neighborhood
- I'm glad there is no fireplace! Seems a bad idea, considering asthma in our community
- I, as a teen, am really glad that there is a teen area planned, and do hope Wi-fi will be installed in the finished library
- I am leaving you an example of community and library synergy in re: work we can do together!
- Future community meetings for more input. Better outreach to ethnic minorities
- Great use of entire lot
- More outreach to get word out
- No
- Keep us inform of the progress of the project
- Although I knew all guys did a great job, I notice the merchants on Leland Street are upset the slow pace of the real work going.

