WELCOME!

- Welcome and Introductions
- Chinatown Branch History
- Community Engagement
- Guiding Principles
- Project Features
- Upcoming
Chinatown Branch History

• 1921 Opens as North Beach Branch
• 1958 Renamed Chinatown Branch
• 1996 Seismic renovation completed
• 2002 Designated San Francisco Landmark
• 2011 Renamed Chinatown /Him Mark Lai Branch
GUIDING PRINCIPLES

• Libraries for the 21st Century
• Flexible and Adaptable Building Designs
• Preservation of Historic Carnegie Libraries
• Multifunctional Community Program Areas
• Transparency and Ease of Wayfinding
Community Engagement

- 2018 Branch Capital Projects Feasibility Study
- 2019 Community Meetings
- 2021 e-Newsletter and Survey

Survey results, minutes, and newsletter available at www.sfpl.org/chinatown-renovation
PROJECT FEATURES

GROUND FLOOR

• Enlarge the Community Room to create a 100-person multi-functional space
• Reopen the historic entry to the Community Room and provide access from the sidewalk
• Create a Gallery / Display Area at the Entry
PROJECT FEATURES

MAIN FLOOR

• Remove the steel trusswork, and mezzanine floor to restore the Historic Reading Room
• New concealed structure at historic building
• Create a dedicated Teen Area
• Create enclosed Study Rooms
• Add restroom(s)
PROJECT FEATURES

MEZZANINE

• Renew Staff Break Area
• Create new Staff Work Room
PROJECT FEATURES

BUILDING GENERAL

- Repair the historic brick façade and entry steps
- Provide a new interior stair that connects entire building
- Build a new single elevator serving all floors
PROJECT FEATURES

BUILDING GENERAL continued

- New lighting throughout
- New building security system throughout
- More electrical outlets for charging devices
- WIFI throughout
- Laptop lending both floors
PROJECT FEATURES

ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCY

- Replace all heating and air conditioning systems
- Air condition the entire building
- Provide enhanced air filtration throughout
- Provide additional cooling at the Community Room for weather relief cooling center
PROJECT FEATURES

ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCY continued

• Provide rooftop solar energy system and battery back-up systems
• Comply with city electrification ordinance
• Building will be “electrified” meaning that only electrically operated equipment will be provided – no natural gas
• Building will use renewable power only
Chinatown Branch then...
...and now
CURRENT READING ROOM
PRELIMINARY PLANS
GROUND FLOOR PLAN
PROJECT SCHEDULE:

Structural evaluation: Oct - Nov 2021, complete
Historic evaluation: Oct - Feb 2022, drafted
Design phases: Oct 2021 – Spring 2022
Community Engagement: May 2022
Historic Planning Approvals: Fall 2022
Bidding and Construction: TBD
Questions?
UPCOMING

MEETING 2: Thursday, May 12, 6 p.m. – Virtual meeting via zoom. Register here: on.sfpl.org/may12
MEETING 3: Saturday, May 14, 11 a.m. – Chinatown Branch Community Room

Thank you!
For updates: www.sfpl.org/chinatown-renovation

San Francisco Public Library
A Guiding Hand

All was three summers ago. That I came to San Francisco. Such a strange and scary land I did find. After a most comforting hometown I left behind.

I searched high and low, left and right. But there was nothing familiar in sight. New faces, new languages, over the summer won old anything warm and solid into which I could hold?

The library, the public library of San Francisco, it stood me up when my spirits were low. The quietness in it and the smell of so many a book, still so comforting and yet exciting I quietly shook.

Culture, geography, history, and language. From all these I derive wisdom and courage. Oh, it is such a strong and solid hand. That assures and guides me in this Wonderful land.

Cynthia Jing Wei