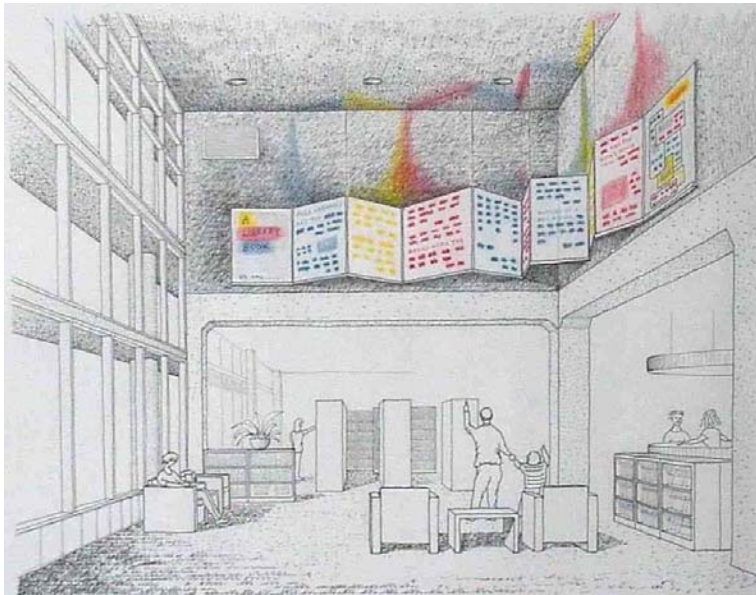


Mission Bay Library Sculpture



Stretching along the upper-level walls of the reading room of the new Mission Bay Branch of the San Francisco Public Library is the sculpture *A Library Book* by San Francisco artist Vince Koloski. The sculpture, in the form of an accordion-fold book, contains within its pages favorite quotations about books and libraries. These quotations were contributed by the patrons of the Public Library.

The sculpture follows the form of a book starting with a “cover” panel carved to look like a rock slab covered with petroglyphs. This is followed by eight 5-foot high by 4-foot wide Lexan panels which serve as pages of the book. Each of these pages holds two smaller panels of Plexiglass which have been engraved with the text of a quotation or hand carved with an illustration. The final panel serves as the rear “cover” and is made up of small illustrations and symbols that show the history of the Mission Bay area of the city from earliest times to the present.

The Plexiglas panels containing the quotations and illustrations are illuminated along the edges by LED lights. These LEDs create a colored glow within each quotation and illustration. This allows the spirit of the quotations to shine out whether the library is open or closed much as the spirit of the library itself is felt throughout the city whether the library building itself is open or closed.

There are twelve quotations in the book. They were submitted by library patrons and from those submissions a committee of community members, library staff and members of the arts commission selected the twelve. Among them are quotes from local authors Anne Lamott, Jewelle Gomez and Ben Fong-Torres. Others with their words in lights are Spike Lee, Groucho Marx and Jorge Luis Borges.

There are also four hand carved illustrations among the pages as well. These illustrations show the progress of human writing from the cuneiform to just before modern printing began.

A Library Book is a public artwork whose creation was administered by the San Francisco Arts Commission specifically for the new Mission Bay Library as part of the Branch Library Improvement Program. The artwork was selected through a public process facilitated by the Arts Commission's Public Arts Program, in cooperation with the San Francisco Public Library.