



San Francisco Public Library

MAIN LIBRARY FACT SHEET

Date opened on current site: April 18, 1996

Location: 100 Larkin Street, between Fulton and Grove streets

Size: 376,000 square feet / seven floors

Seating capacity: 2,043

Glass study rooms: 23

Meeting spaces: 5 rooms + 1 auditorium

Reference desks: 14

Self-checkout stations: 10

Self-return machines: 2

Video relay station for the Deaf/Hard-of-hearing: 1

Audio/video viewing/listening stations: 9

Bicycle parking capacity: 52

Public access computers: 240

Wireless access: entire building

Works of art: 7

MAIN LIBRARY ANNUAL STATISTICS (FY 2013-14)

Visitors and patrons to the Main Library: 1,716,071

Annual number of programs and attendance: 1,460 programs / 58,805 attended

Annual hours open: 3,030

Borrower cards issued: 18,453

Reference questions answered: 322,325

Items borrowed: 2,160,748

Items owned (books, cassettes, CDs, VHS, DVDs, government documents, bound periodicals, sheet music, LPs): 2,002,912



San Francisco Public Library

MAIN LIBRARY TIMELINE

- 1879:** First San Francisco Public Library opens in Pacific Hall on Bush Street
- 1888:** The Library moves to the Larkin Street wing of City Hall
- 1903:** Architect Daniel Burnham, leader of the City Beautiful movement, begins to design a master plan for San Francisco, including a Civic Center with a new library building.
- 1906:** Earthquake and fire destroys San Francisco City Hall including the Main Library and its collection.
- 1907:** Temporary Main Library is built at Hayes and Franklin streets.
- 1917:** New Main Library at Civic Center is dedicated and opens to the public.
- 1943:** Main Library reaches capacity.
- 1974:** The Library Commission, Friends of the San Francisco Public Library, Keep Libraries Alive! and other citizen groups fight to retain Marshall Square as the site for a new main library. The original Main Library was housed in the building that is now the Asian Art Museum.
- 1987:** Mayor Feinstein calls for a new main library in Marshall Square as part of a Civic Center master plan.
- 1988:** Voters approve a bond measure for \$109.5 million to construct a new 376,000-square-foot main library and renovate a few branches.
- 1989:** The Library Commission hires **Pei Cobb Freed & Partners** of New York and **Simon Martin-Vegue Winkelstein Moris** of San Francisco as the building's architects.
- 1992:** A groundbreaking ceremony is held in Marshall Square.
- 1993:** Construction begins on March 15.
- 1996:** The Main Library opens on April 18.
- 2008:** The Main Library's First Floor renovation is completed, resulting in an additional 6,000 square feet of publicly accessible space.