

San Diego New Central Library Charter High School

*A College and Career Preparatory High School
Serving the San Diego Urban Community*

San Diego's New Central Library will be a center for literacy and learning, providing information and knowledge for San Diego. Central to this mission is an onsite charter school to serve 500 urban high school students who currently face limited education options.



Downtown Charter High is receiving attention as a national model. It meets a long-recognized need among San Diego's underserved urban high school population.

- More than 84 percent of students served in this area qualify for free and reduced student lunches.
- 73 percent are Hispanic, a rate well above District and state averages.
- More than 52 percent of the high school students living downtown—more than 2,800—attend high schools outside downtown, many bused to schools far from downtown.



Gina Rios, *KIPP Adelante Preparatory Academy 8th grader testified before San Diego City Council*

People are saying...

We're thrilled about the chance to have a new library and high school in our downtown area. My classmates and I have visited several colleges. The libraries always are in the center of campus pointed at as prized—as if to say we take learning seriously here. That's the attitude we should take for our beautiful city. We've learned a lot from our visit to these chambers, the greatest lesson being that if you really want something, you have to fight for it no matter how long it takes. We cannot wait for this library and school!

Unprecedented access and resources for students

- A homework center with collections, tutoring services, Internet access and electronic resources tailored to support students' homework and project needs.
- More than 1.2 million Library volumes.
- A vast array of technological resources, including 407 public computers and a training area to teach computer and technology skills.
- 22 Wi-Fi enabled study rooms.
- A teen center with resources specific to the educational and college preparation needs of high school students.
- On-site professional literacy services from the Library's award-winning literacy program.



Jed Wallace, Pres. & CEO
California Charter Schools
Association

People are saying...

The Central Library charter school will become a national model because of its innovative approach, stakeholder collaboration and flexibility to meet student needs. The combined educational resources make a charter school within a Central Library a winning concept. The Central Library is the perfect opportunity to empower high school students to become the next generation of informed and active American citizens.

A unique collaboration = high-quality charter high school

The San Diego Unified School District, the City of San Diego and the San Diego Public Library Foundation are cooperatively developing Downtown Charter High—a high-quality, high-performing charter high school. The school capitalizes on its vast educational resources and will creatively prepare students for college and careers. The school will foster a culture of success by:

- Providing students “multiple pathways” to college and career readiness.
- Creating a college-going expectation with opportunities for dual enrollment at San Diego City College.
- Promoting 21st century career-readiness by incorporating team- and project-based learning.
- Structuring the design of the school to provide deep support for all levels of learners in a small classroom environment with a target student-teacher ratio of 26:1.
- Fostering internships and hands-on learning experiences that capitalize on the school’s proximity to the downtown business, social and civic community.
- Providing an adaptable learning environment, such as a flexible school day which encourages internships, mentorships, job shadowing and other creative learning experiences.
- Focusing on the many forms of literacy, including traditional literacy, digital literacy, social literacy (learning within the community) and second language literacy.



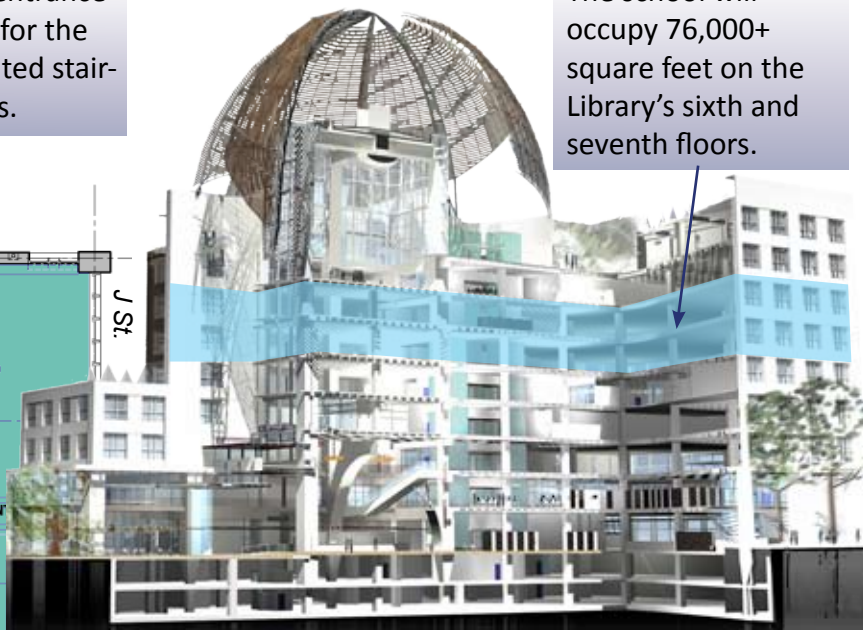
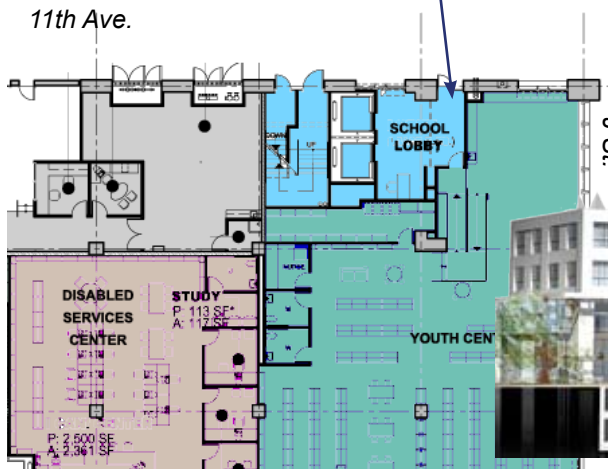
The school’s location within a major library and in an urban core presents unique educational opportunities not possible at alternate high school locations.

Integrated into the Library's design

The Library was designed so the high school's two floors are independent from the operations of the Library but allow controlled access by students to the Library.

The school has its own dedicated entrance and lobby. In this lobby is security for the school, two elevators and a dedicated stair-well to the sixth and seventh floors.

The school will occupy 76,000+ square feet on the Library's sixth and seventh floors.



Richard Barrera,
speaks at Library
groundbreaking



Shelia Jackson,
signs I-beam at Library
groundbreaking

People are saying...

The unique collaboration will provide young adults with an outstanding educational facility, integrating academics with demanding career technical education and relevant work-based learning opportunities bolstered by its most unique resource—immediate proximity to a world-class Central Library and thriving downtown business community. The school will provide young adults with multiple pathways to post-secondary education, job skills and self-sufficiency. The new high school will meet a considerable need in downtown San Diego.

As a partnership between two complementary public institutions, this project positions San Diego at the forefront of the exciting and important charter school movement and becomes a model for the nation.

Richard Barrera
President
San Diego Unified School Board

Shelia Jackson
Immediat Past President
San Diego Unified School Board

People are saying...



Laura Andrews, *Mother of downtown students and former PTA Chair at Jack Kimbrough Elementary.*

I'm the parent of three young adolescents in San Diego. I'm one of the families who is zoned in the area for my kids to attend San Diego High School. I was forced to home school my oldest, send my middle child across town to Crawford High and have my younger son go to school all the way to La Jolla. He leaves for school before I do and arrives home later than I do from work because we are trying to get him the best education available. As a former peer parent advocate, I tell parents you must search for your children's teachers and schools just like you would a surgeon. I feel it's my duty to say how important it is that we provide this school so it can release some of downtown's school overcrowding and give our kids an opportunity to have one of the best schools in San Diego.

School development

The Center for Education Policy and Law (CEPAL) at the University of San Diego is managing the development and petition process for Downtown Charter High under the leadership of its director Scott Himelstein, former Deputy Secretary of Education and later Acting Secretary of Education for the State of California.

CEPAL is a joint undertaking of the USD School of Law and School of Leadership and Education Sciences. The Center seeks better linkage between educational research, policymaking and practice. The Center fosters these linkages by undertaking research, promoting enhanced communication between education leaders and local and state-level policymakers and by facilitating understanding among USD law students and education graduate students.

CEPAL recently completed stakeholder interviews with business, community and education leaders to refine the school's learning design and programmatic themes and to help identify downtown opportunities. A Development Team for the Downtown Charter High School is helping develop the charter petition which has been submitted to the California Charter School Association and will be presented to the San Diego Unified School District in mid September.

The Founding Team includes Library Foundation trustees, educators, business and community members, and parents:

Laura Andrews - Senior Outreach Services Coordinator in Spanish Speaking Communities for Mental Health America of San Diego County. Mother of three teenagers in downtown San Diego. Former PTA president for Kimbrough Elementary and Memorial Middle Schools. Advocate for high-quality education opportunities for downtown San Diego students.

Julie Zoellin Cramer - CEPAL Research Associate specializing in K-12 public education reform and charter school development with 12+ years of experience in parent and public education advocacy.

Teresa Drew - parent of two San Diego City School students and education reform advocate. Former Ocean Beach Elementary School PTA president. Teacher and co-founder of The Barnes Tennis and Education Program, a unique preschool program using small class size, individualized learning plans to teach academics through movement. Founding board member of the Point Loma Cluster Schools Foundation.

People are saying...



Katherine Nakamura,
San Diego Unified School
Board

The idea of having a charter school in the Library is groundbreaking. It is going to forge a new partnership and a new relationship between the Library system and the school system. This is the most important thing I am working on as a school board member. This is the way government should work. It is a unique, unique opportunity for our students and I am so grateful to the citizens who have toiled for so long to get this library built. I am very pleased and honored to be a part of a very long parade of impassioned citizens who have had this vision for this City and have shown what we can accomplish for our youngest citizens.

Dr. Joyce M. Gattas (Founding Board Member and Lead Petitioner) - Dean of the College of Professional Studies and Fine Arts at San Diego State University with vast volunteer experience in San Diego and nationally.

Scott Himmelstein - founding Director of CEPAL and current Vice President of California Community College Board of Governors. He is the former Deputy Secretary of Education and later Acting Secretary of Education for the State of California.

Mel Katz (Founding Board Member and Lead Petitioner) - Executive Officer for Manpower Staffing Services of San Diego, Inc., the largest Manpower franchise in the U.S. He is current chair of the San Diego Public Library Foundation and former chair of the San Diego Library Commission.

Shelli Kurth - teacher and co-director of The Barnes Tennis and Education Program, a unique preschool program using small class size, individualized learning plans to teach academics through movement. Actively involved in the Point Loma Cluster Schools Foundation that represents ten schools and 6,000 students in the Ocean Beach/Point Loma Area.

Dr. Heather Lattimer, Ed.D - Assistant Professor in the Department of Learning and Teaching, School of Leadership and Education Sciences, at the University of San Diego. She has taught social studies, English and math in urban middle schools and high schools in both Northern and Southern California and has served as an instructional coach for San Diego City Schools.

Dr. Alberto M. Ochoa (*Founding Board Member*) - Professor Emeritus in the Department of Policy Studies at San Diego State University. He is a researcher and community consultant and has worked with over 60 K-12 school districts on instructional programs, curriculum programming, staff and community development and organizational development.

Dr. Veronica Ortega-Welch - Professor in the Department of Behavioral Sciences at San Diego City College where she has established the Institute for Human Development. Co-Director of the San Diego BEST Initiative that provides training and educational advancement for youth workers in the San Diego region.

Rebecca Smith - Vice President of the San Diego Workforce Partnership, advisory board member of the School of Leadership & Education Sciences at University of San Diego and the foundation board member of the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation. Former Career Coach at Qualcomm and helped establish High Tech High and its countywide internship program.

Erin Spiewak (*Founding Board Member*) - Executive Director of the Gary and Mary West Foundation. She manages the Foundation's day-to day operations and also is responsible for the Foundation's work with the California Charter School Association and various charter high schools in San Diego County.



September 13, 2010