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## **City Breaks Ground on New Central Library** *Historic project moves forward with broad community support*

**SAN DIEGO** – San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders today joined a large crowd of library supporters, including State and City officials and three former City mayors, to break ground on the New Central Library—a project in the planning for more than 30 years.

“Today we break ground on a project that was more than three decades in the making – a project that has inspired a truly unprecedented number of people to participate in the civic process,” said Mayor Sanders. “We know it will continue to inspire our citizens for generations to come.”

More than 500 people attended the ceremony at 11<sup>th</sup> and K Street in East Village. The New Central Library is scheduled to open in the summer of 2013.

The nine-story Library will be the heart of San Diego’s 35-branch library system and will serve as a new regional center for learning and literacy, offering public access to the Central Library’s entire collection. Currently, two-thirds of the collection must be housed in basement areas off limits to the public. As a technology center, the New Central Library will help close the ‘digital divide’ with more than 400 workstations, available laptops, spaces for teaching the use of new technology and free Wi-Fi access. A unique and innovative 76,000 square-foot charter school will be housed independently on the Library’s sixth and seventh floors. The iconic Library will also offer multiple community gathering spaces where San Diegans will celebrate reading and culture, hear great music, appreciate art work and discuss critical civic issues.

Joining the Mayor at the groundbreaking ceremony were private donors who have collectively contributed more than \$40.8 million in private commitments for New Central Library construction,

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including \$10 million to cover additional operating costs when the facility opens. Among those who attended were Joan and Irwin Jacobs, who have committed \$15 million to construction and an additional \$5 million toward operations.

“Joan and I are very pleased to join with so many others in our community to finally reach this very special day - groundbreaking for our new central library,” said Irwin Jacobs. “We look forward to the library becoming a prime focus within the region for civic engagement, educational activities, and pursuit of knowledge in its ever expanding forms. We anticipate extended operating hours using the committed private resources to supplement city general funds.”

Library Foundation Chair Mel Katz thanked the families who have committed to the library and charter school project thus far and expressed confidence in the Foundation’s ability to raise the additional \$32.5 million needed by the end of construction.

“We are grateful to the families who have contributed to this important project and ensured that the City is able to break ground today,” Katz said. “These leaders had the vision and the commitment to make this amazing ceremony possible.

“Now that we have put shovels in the ground, we know new donors will be willing to invest in the New Central Library,” Katz said. Individuals interested in supporting the New Central Library can visit [www.supportmylibrary.org](http://www.supportmylibrary.org) or can call 619-238-6638.

Katie Sullivan, Chair of the Board of Library Commissioners, reinforced the need for the New Central Library. Sullivan, who along with her husband Dan is contributing toward the Library’s construction, said that the current 1950s building is too small and inadequately serves the community’s diverse needs.

“The New Central Library offers San Diegans so many more resources and opportunities that are impossible to deliver in the current building,” Sullivan said. “This Library will be a major resource to San Diego’s children, with collections available for children and teens nearly three times larger than at our current location. The New Central Library also has more than 4,900 square feet of space

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for the Library’s award-winning adult literacy services, which currently are housed at a branch location.”

Private donor commitments for the New Central Library are paired with \$80 million in redevelopment money, \$20 million from a competitive State Library grant (one of the two largest awarded from Prop 14 funds) and \$20 million from the San Diego Unified School District to lease space for a charter school for a total of more than \$150 million. More than 81 percent of the funding has been raised toward the project’s \$184.9 million guaranteed maximum price.

For more information on supporting the New Central Library, visit [www.supportmylibrary.org](http://www.supportmylibrary.org). For information on the San Diego Public Library, visit [www.sandiegolibrary.org](http://www.sandiegolibrary.org).

The San Diego Public Library Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization composed of community leaders who work with the Friends of the Library and other support groups to raise funds for an excellent free public library system. Since its inception, the Library Foundation has worked with the City to open six new branch libraries and expand two branches. The Library Foundation also works with the Friends and other partners to ensure the Library has met the City’s \$1 million match each of the last seven fiscal years. This match program provides critical support for materials, programs and technology at the Central Library and the 35 branches. Additional information is available at [SupportMyLibrary.org](http://SupportMyLibrary.org).

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