

# San Diego needs a new Central Library

## 1. A new Central Library improves all our neighborhoods and communities.

San Diego's Central Library is the brain trust for all programming, collections, reference materials and technical resources provided to the 35 community branches. Technology, programming, services for people with disabilities and web-based services originate at the Central Library. Patrons at branch libraries can request that any of the half-million unique titles housed at Central be sent to their branch. A robust Central Library ensures that the branch libraries have the support and resources they need to provide for local neighborhood needs.

Your branch library relies on the collections, databases, reference support and expertise the Central Library provides.



## 2. The new Central Library will inspire and educate our children.



There are 43 schools within two miles of the Central Library. The new Central will host school groups for various programs including story time, computer training, research projects and special classes.

The new Central Library nearly triples the space dedicated to children and teens with 9,100 square feet of space. While the current Library has no study rooms, the new Central will feature 22 dedicated rooms for working on homework and study projects. Programs like Live Homework Help and Summer Reading will thrive and expand, inspiring children to be eager, life-long learners.

## 3. Expanded new Central technology will empower thousands of people.

Last year, there were more than 1.6 million Internet sign-ups on library computers and that number grows each year. The new Central Library will increase public computers from 84 to 407 and wireless internet connections will be available throughout the library. Everyone—regardless of age, race or class—will have access to computers and training which opens the door to new employment opportunities for many.

## 4. A new Central Library will bring people together—unlike any other space in San Diego.

The new Central Library features inviting spaces for both large and intimate groups. In the Garden Courtyard, glass doors will open wide to create a unique, open air space to host more than 1,000 people for free luncheon concerts and author presentations.

The new Central Library is a beacon of inspiration that affords San Diegans the opportunity and spaces to stimulate their minds, develop their characters and refresh their souls, while basking in San Diego's sunshine, fresh air, sweeping vistas and natural beauty.

The Library is San Diego's largest provider of free cultural programming with nearly 5,000 events each year. The new Central Library features a 350-seat auditorium that will host a continuing series of free public events.



## 5. The new Central Library will be easy to get to, opening up unprecedented public access to the library.



Located near PETCO Park and the Gaslamp Quarter, the new Central Library is accessible for all by trolley, bus, foot or bicycle, ensuring more people will enjoy all it offers.

The current Central Library has no dedicated parking. The new Central will have 500 free parking spaces and an additional 2,500 paid parking spaces within 500 feet. There are also 18 bus stops, two trolley stops and exceptional pedestrian and bicycle access. San Diego's downtown residential population has nearly doubled over the past seven years. The Central Library will fill an essential need as the branch library for this population and for the estimated 75,000 people who work downtown everyday.

## 6. The current Central Library is inadequate.



Opened in 1954, the Central Library was built to serve a City population of 300,000. Last fiscal year, the facility hosted more than 563,000 visitors.

The San Diego's Central Library was built over half a century ago and is too small, cramped and outdated to fulfill current needs. The 1954 facility is decaying and is energy inefficient.

The Library's collections far exceeds the current space. More than half of library materials are relegated to basement storage areas, off limits to the public.

**This asbestos-laden structure is inefficient with limited capability for reconfiguring space for virtually any purpose."**

—California State Library staff

## 7. America's finest City deserves a first-class library.



Lattice work on the iconic dome features photovoltaic cells that collect electricity for the building by day. At night, the lights from the three-story reading room will glow. The reading room features amazing views of the Bay and the Coronado Bridge.

The new Central Library will accommodate the needs of San Diego's 2.5 million people. This nine-story building will allow the publicly-displayed collections to grow by more than 60 percent, expanding easily available resources for library customers. Additionally, the modern facility will be energy efficient and cost effective to maintain.



San Diego Public Library  
FOUNDATION

To support education and literacy for all San Diegans, log onto [www.supportmylibrary.org](http://www.supportmylibrary.org).

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