

# What do you want your Library to look like?

## We need to hear from you

Your input can help craft the San Diego Public Library's future. The San Diego Public Library and San Diego Public Library Foundation are developing a new master plan and want to know:

- What do you need from the Library?
- How can the Library serve your community?
- What services, technologies, and programs would help you?



The plan is being built in collaboration with the Mayor and City Council, the Friends of the San Diego Public Library, and the Library Commission and will provide a long-range vision and strategy for San Diego Public Library facility, technology, and program investments.

Hearing from San Diegans about what they want their Library to look like is key. A community survey is open at [SupportMyLibrary.org/master-plan](https://SupportMyLibrary.org/master-plan) from February 17 through April 17 to gather that input. The survey will be available in:

English  
Arabic  
Chinese

Farsi  
Vietnamese

Tagalog  
Spanish

## Why's a new plan needed?

In 2002, the San Diego City council adopted a 21st Century Library Plan to guide Library capital improvements. The plan established a target of 15,000 square-foot neighborhood branches, a 25,000 square-foot “flagship” branch in each council district, and identified \$153 million in needed improvements or new facilities at 23 branches. This plan helped guide expansion or replacement of eight branches from 2002 and 2009 and opening of the Central Library @ Joan A Irwin Jacobs Common in 2013, but:

### **The current plan is outdated.**

- Implementation of **branch improvements outlined in 21st Century Library Plan has slowed significantly** in the last decade.
- There have been **no significant recent updates to the plan.**
- Data that informs the plan **is based on 1990s census data.**
- The **Library's role in the community has evolved.**

## What's been done thus far?

With financial support from six City Council offices, the Library Foundation engaged nationally recognized library consultant Group 4 Architecture, Research + Planning, Inc. Group 4 has more than 30 years of experience with library master plan projects nationwide, including in Oakland, San Jose, Sacramento, and Cincinnati. Group 4 completed a preliminary planning process and presented preliminary "Phase 0" findings in December of 2019. A copy of this report and a video of Group 4's presentation are available at [SupportMyLibrary.org/master-plan](https://SupportMyLibrary.org/master-plan).

## The initial findings.

- **Population growth has outpaced branch construction.** Branch capacity is at 0.3 square-feet per capita system-wide and, with projected city growth, will be well below that level in the next decade.
- **There is significant inequity in how the 0.3 square-feet percapita is currently distributed.**
- The City's 2020-24 Capital Infrastructure Program identifies \$93+ million in capital improvement project needs at nin branches but **\$64 million of those improvements are currently unfunded.**
- **The average city Library branch has a Facilities Condition Index of 25 percent** (15 percent is the "acceptable" threshold).
- The Library has significant technological advancements but faces **challenges around equality of technology access throughout the system.**

### Branch space is inequitably distributed

#### District 5

4 branches; ~0.5 SF/capita  
(n.i. Pacific Highlands)

#### District 7

6 branches; <0.5 SF/capita

#### Districts 1, 2, 4, 8

3-4 branches each;  
each ~0.3-0.4 SF/capita

#### District 9

4 branches; <0.26 SF/capita

#### District 6

3 branches; ~0.2 SF/capita

#### District 3

3 branches; ~0.1 SF/capita



## What's next?

In addition to the Community Survey, focus group meetings will be held this spring with populations who may not be able to participate in the Community Survey. Other community engagement opportunities are being explored. A draft of the plan will be shared later this spring with the final plan unveiled in early summer.

## Resources

- Visit [SupportMyLibrary.org/master-plan](https://SupportMyLibrary.org/master-plan) to:
  - \* Complete the survey (or follow this QR code).
  - \* Sign up for updates or to request a Library Master Plan presentation to your organization.
- Questions or need help completing the survey?
- Email [office@supportmylibrary.org](mailto:office@supportmylibrary.org) or call 619-236-5849.



Thank you for your helping shape the Library!