The City of SAN DIEGO
Mayor Todd Gloria

News Release

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City Unveils Designs for $14.5 Million Ocean Beach Library Expansion

LONG-AWAITED PROJECT WILL MODERNIZE NEARLY CENTURY-OLD LIBRARY, ADD COMMUNITY SPACES

SAN DIEGO – Mayor Todd Gloria and Councilmember Jennifer Campbell today unveiled new design renderings for the $14.5 million expansion of the Ocean Beach Library, marking a major step toward modernizing the nearly century-old facility. The project has reached 60% design completion and will add new community gathering spaces, study rooms, a dedicated teen area and expanded library resources, with construction anticipated to begin in 2027.

"Today marks a major step toward delivering the expanded Ocean Beach Library this community has championed for years," said Mayor Todd Gloria. **"Councilmember Jennifer Campbell's persistence helped move this $14.5 million project from aspiration to action, and it will stand as an important part of her legacy in District 2. I also thank Congressman Scott Peters, Toni Atkins and the Shinnick family for providing critical support to make this milestone possible. Together, we are preserving a nearly century-old neighborhood institution while preparing it to serve generations to come."**

The project, managed by the City's Engineering and Capital Projects Department, includes remodeling the existing facility, demolishing the adjacent two-story building and constructing a new 4,300-square-foot library extension. The extension will provide space for an expanded book collection area, a community meeting room with a kitchenette, study rooms, a teen area, office space, storage rooms, restrooms and a large meeting space that opens up to an outdoor patio area.

Additionally, the upgraded facility will provide more space for educational programs, community meetings, youth activities and quiet study, helping the library better serve residents of all ages.

"Expanding and modernizing this historic library has been a priority throughout my entire term, and I am incredibly proud to see it finally move forward during my final weeks representing District 2," said City Councilmember Jennifer Campbell. **"I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Shinnick Family for their extraordinary $3 million donation. The Ocean Beach Library has been a cornerstone of this community for nearly 100 years, and this project represents an important investment in its future and the generations of families who rely on it."**

This $14.5 million project is supported by a combination of City, state, federal and private funding, including a $4 million federal grant, more than $4 million in state funding and a $3 million contribution from a private donor.

"One of my most important jobs in Congress is bringing home federal investments to make San Diego a better place to live, work, and raise our families," said Congressman Scott Peters, who represents the 50th District. **"I secured $4 million to expand the Ocean Beach Library and provide more meeting spaces that can accommodate vital civic organizations like the Ocean Beach Town Council, the Planning Group, Friends of the Library, and others. Public libraries are a critical community resource and I'm thrilled to see this project move forward to serve OB and folks across San Diego. I look forward to stopping by the new OB Library!"**

Built in 1928 and last expanded in 1962, the Ocean Beach Library has served generations of residents as a neighborhood gathering place. Aside from limited improvements over the decades, the facility has remained largely unchanged since the early '60s, making this expansion a significant investment in preserving and modernizing a longstanding community resource.

"The Ocean Beach Library is a vital part of the Ocean Beach community, and we happily support it because it supports all of us," said the Shinnick family, who donated $3 million to the project.

The completed design is expected to be submitted by the City's contracted Design-Builder in early 2027. After review and approval, construction is expected to begin in the spring of 2027 and be completed in the summer of 2028.

The Ocean Beach Library closed in August as the project began and Library staff have started preparing the facility for construction by removing books from the shelves. Anyone in the community looking to use library resources can visit the next closest branch location, the Point Loma/Hervey Library, located at 3701 Voltaire St.

Ocean Beach Library is one of 36 branch libraries in the San Diego Public Library system. For more information on other library locations and services, visit the Library's webpage.

About the San Diego Public Library
With a vision of being the place for opportunity, discovery and inspiration, the San Diego Public Library is a hub for knowledge and lifelong learning. As the largest library system in the region, it serves a population of more than 1.4 million. Learn about events at the San Diego Central Library @ Joan Λ Irwin Jacobs Common and 36 community branch libraries, find links to programs and resources or search for materials in the online catalog at SanDiegoLibrary.org.


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