San Diego Central Library
@ Joan & Irwin Jacobs Common

Sanford Children’s Library
Fun and engaging Dr. Seuss-themed library with primary and intermediate grade collections, child-sized and specialized computer work stations, a colorful storyline and play area, spaces for learning programs and author events, and space for the I CAN TOO! Center for children with special learning needs.

Pauline Foster Teen Center
This beach-themed space is a relaxing and safe learning environment for teens only. It includes a specialized media and gaming room, computers and study rooms, fun and engaging furniture to encourage teens to hang out and collaborate, an onsite snack area, and iPads, mini iPads, Chromebooks, and eReaders available for use in the Library.

The Central Library is the largest municipal library in the U.S. to have an onsite school. Located on the 6th and 7th floors, e3 Civic High started with 260 students in 9th and 10th grade and ultimately will serve up to 500 students. With a college and career readiness focused approach and collaboration with nearby higher educational centers, downtown businesses, and government, e3 Civic High is quickly becoming a national model for education.

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Public Art
Public art is an important component of the San Diego Central Library and it plays a meaningful role in showcasing the region’s artistic talent and cultural assets. A book wall in the Auditorium by internationally acclaimed artist Donald Lipski features thousands of recycled books attached to the wall. An art installation in Elevator 1 by famed artists Elmar and Jamex de la Torre immerses visitors in a mythical “time machine” as the elevator travels from floor to floor. The Price Reading Room includes artful repurposed furniture by renowned artist Roy McMillan. A wall installation by internationally recognized video artist Gary Hill features video monitors arrayed like an open book, presenting a digital artistic interpretation of literacy and reading. The art gallery on the 9th floor offers access to museum-quality art. There are also approximately 150 other public art pieces on view throughout the building, including pieces in the Valerias Sculpture Garden, that engage the mind and lift the spirits.

Helen Price Reading Room
This “People’s Penthouse” is an airy three-story soaring glass room under the Library’s iconic sun-protective Dome. Here library users can read, relax and enjoy panoramic views of the bay and city skyline.

Gathering Spaces Small and Large
The San Diego Central Library is the “happening” place to be. There are spaces for everyone, including cozy reading nooks, 20 plus small and group study rooms, study carrels and the spacious Auditorium used for cultural programming and author talks. The ground floor Garden Courtyard with its outdoor café seamlessly connects the Library Lobby to the Auditorium. It is a large adaptable space that serve as a town square to host brown-bag concerts, author talks, civic events or smaller gatherings.

Space for Collections and Services
In the old Central Library almost two thirds of the collection was in the basement due to lack of space on the public shelves. The collection has now been returned to the people. Most of the 1.2 million item collection and 1.6 government publications are now on the public shelves making them “browseable.” This access to the collection can spark library users’ creativity and allow them to make connections between topics that were not easily possible in the past.

Innovative Technology
Cutting edge technology is integrated throughout the Central Library. GPON (Gigabit Passive Optical Network) fiber optic architecture provides high bandwidth transmission and supports next-generation services. Free Wi-Fi and nearly 300 digital devices are available including computer workstations, iPads, iPod Minis, Chromebooks, and Kindles and Sony eReaders (preloaded with the most popular titles). Technology enabled collaborative work spaces are provided throughout the Library. RFID tagging allows for more efficient materials handling and frees staff to provide direct service to customers.

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Libraries are Peaceful Places
San Diego Central Library offers a wide variety of reading materials and a comfortable environment for quiet study. In the Central Library, you can find a variety of areas where you can read in peace, including the Helen Price Reading Room, the San Diego Central Library Garden, and various quieter spaces throughout the building. Whether you prefer to read alone or in a group, the Central Library provides a quiet and welcoming atmosphere for all who love to read.