



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

## Frequently Asked Questions About The New Logan Heights Branch Library

### **1. Why is a new Logan Heights Branch Library needed?**

Plans call for building a new 25,000-square-foot Logan Heights Branch Library at the corner of South 28<sup>th</sup> Street and Ocean View Boulevard. The current branch library opened in 1927 and was not built for the technology age. The current building is only 3,967 square feet in size, making it one of the smallest branches in the San Diego Public Library system. There is not enough room for a proper collection of books, audio visual materials and other items to properly serve the community. Also, the building is not adequately wired for technology or computers. In addition, there is currently no room for school groups or community organizations to meet at the library.

### **2. When will the library be built and how will the City pay for the project?**

Plans call for construction of the new Logan Heights library to begin in 2005 with completion scheduled for 2007. The City has received a state grant of \$5.35 million to help pay for the \$8.4 million project. The remaining cost will come from tobacco tax money, developer fees and federal funding.

### **3. How will the community benefit from a new library?**

The new library will be a major improvement and will benefit the community in several ways.

- a. With 25,000 square feet, the new library will be more than six times larger than the old library.
- b. The book collection of the branch is expected to grow from about 40,700 to approximately 73,000.
- c. There will be 66 public computers, compared to the eight now available.
- d. While there is no dedicated parking for the current facility, the new library will have 186 dedicated parking spaces.
- e. There will be a large collection of bilingual books and library materials in a variety of formats.

### **4. Was the community involved in the planning for the new library?**

Yes. When plans were being created for the project in 2002, comments, ideas and suggestions were gathered extensively from many local residents, including parents of students, local library patrons and members of community organizations.

- a. Focus groups held meetings to provide input regarding the new library. Members of these groups included parents of Logan Elementary and Memorial Charter school students and teachers of these schools,
- b. A survey, in both English and Spanish, was conducted with hundreds of neighborhood residents, library patrons, and students of the Cesar Chavez Continuing Education Center.
- c. Questionnaires requesting input on the library project were completed by local students and teachers.
- d. Letters of support for the new library project were received from neighborhood agencies, organizations and schools such as Barrio Station, Boys and Girls Club, Our Lady's School and HIPPY Foundation.
- e. The project was discussed at meetings of the Friends of the Logan Heights Library, Barrio Logan Community Planning Committee and the Barrio Logan Redevelopment Project Area Committee.
- f. City staff found that the plans for the new library project had wide support among residents in the Logan Heights and Barrio Logan areas.

-- more --

## New Logan Heights Branch Library

### **5. How will Logan Elementary and Memorial Charter schools benefit from a new library?**

Students from both schools will benefit greatly from a new library. A joint use agreement between the City of San Diego Public Library and the San Diego Unified School District with a plan of service has the following special features:

- a. A state-of-the-art library with a computer lab of 35 computers, all with a priority for the students.
- b. Digital Reference Center that includes 12 computers.
- c. School textbook collection for after-school and weekend access to help students with homework.
- d. Centro Cultural, a cultural center for student programs, will offer exhibits and displays.
- e. Access to the library by school faculty and students before open hours.
- f. School priority for all meeting rooms, labs and seminar rooms.
- g. A "Techno Teen" program that will allow older students to help younger ones with the computer research.
- h. A Teacher Resource Collection of books and materials on teaching and curriculum ideas.
- i. A 300-seat community room, the cornerstone of the "Centro Cultural," that will showcase students and bring cultural programming to the community.
- j. Establishment of a "teen board" for children to help plan the programs and activities that relate to them.

### **6. Why is the new library to be located on school district property?**

The City of San Diego and the San Diego Unified School District entered into a joint use agreement. As a result, the Library receives a site that is near the current library and centrally located for the community, and the children attending the adjacent schools receive special accommodations, services and materials at the library. Part of the agreement between the City and the school district also includes a renewable property lease of \$1.00 per year for a minimum of 50 years. This will be a great savings to tax payers and ensure that the new library project will be completed.

### **7. Will the new library attract more traffic to the neighborhood?**

As part of the environmental analysis and review, a Traffic Impact Report was conducted in March 2002. Based on this analysis, it was determined that the project will have no significant impacts to the intersections and the surrounding area. The new library will enhance and greatly promote pedestrian activity by placing an urban plaza on South 28<sup>th</sup> Street that will lead to the main entrance of the library. A connection to Memorial Park will be provided via a landscaped walkway.

### **8. Will school libraries at either Logan Elementary or Memorial Charter schools close with the opening of the new Logan Heights Branch Library?**

No. The libraries at both schools will remain open and will not be affected by the opening of the new Logan Heights Branch Library.

### **9. Will the new library be a safe environment for both children and adults?**

Yes. A security guard will be on duty at the library during open hours for the safety of both patrons and staff.

###