

# San Diego's Main Library Site

## *An Educational and Recreational Center for the 21st Century*

**Extensive community input:** Forty-five separate studies were conducted over the last 35 years to select the *best possible* site! Extensive community input was obtained with all major stakeholders in agreement. In 2001, the Park-to-Bay site was unanimously selected by the Mayor and City Council for the new Main Library. The Friends of the Library and Board of Library Commissioners endorsed this site. The site is City-owned and is slightly larger than a full city block, approximately 70,000 plus square feet.



**Convenient to public transit and freeways:** Freeway access is within six to 10 blocks of the site, with 500 (free or dedicated) parking spaces. There is unparalleled public transportation to the site. The site is served by 12 bus routes, including two express routes. There are 18 public transit stops located within a quarter mile of the site. In addition, two new bus stops will be directly across the street. The site is two blocks north and south of the nearest trolley station stops, each served every 5 to 10 minutes.

**Connecting communities and cultures:** The site is centrally located, providing ease of access from existing neighborhoods and the increasing new residential areas in the downtown area. More than 50,000 residents are projected to live in downtown by 2025. 9,000 housing units are under construction, including 1,800 low- and moderate-income housing units. Forty percent of all new residential units being built in the City of San Diego will be in downtown.

**A cornerstone of San Diego's education system:** The new Main Library will serve hundreds of thousands of children in the San Diego region. The Main Library will also be the de facto "downtown branch" for the 32 pre-schools, public, private and alternative schools in its service area. The Library will have 500 computers incorporating state-of-the-art technology.

**The heart of commerce and business for the San Diego region:** More than 75,000 employers and employees do business downtown. This is expected to more than double by 2020.

**The most financially favorable location:** This City-owned site has significant economic advantages, especially with two leased floors generating revenue and providing future expansion space for the Library.



**Located along the new Park-to-Bay promenade:** The \$130 million Park-to-Bay promenade will serve as a major urban design element linking San Diego's most visible and valuable natural resources, Balboa Park and San Diego Bay. The link includes a pedestrian-oriented, tree-lined boulevard with widened sidewalks, creating an extension of the park. The Library site is at the "node" of the link and will be a focal point. There is a "view corridor" down Park Boulevard from the Library to a major public plaza on the Bay, which will include prominent public art.



**Centrally located in the redevelopment area:** The site is located in the central business district within the highly urbanized East Village District of the Centre City Community Plan, a new redevelopment area. Some of the projects under construction are the new ballpark, hotels, housing units, the Children’s Museum, the expansion of the Museum of Contemporary Art, and retail spaces. Many other projects are pending and are expected to be underway before completion of the library. Over \$3 billion of public and private funds have been invested and leveraged to develop a world-class urban center.

**Infrastructure updated as part of the redevelopment effort in the area:** Part of the redevelopment effort in the area includes a \$45 million replacement of 26 blocks of infrastructure to improve the service to all current and future projects. Within the area is a new chilled water plant designed to serve many projects, thus eliminating the need for a stand-alone system serving the Library. This will result in energy savings to the Library. Additional area replacements include water, sewer, storm drains, streets and dry utilities.



**Family-friendly destination:** With ample free parking in and around the site, and designed to present abundant programs and exhibitions, the Library will be an easily accessible destination for family activities.

**Stimulus to redevelopment:** Replacing an unsightly vehicle maintenance yard, this is one of several projects within the designated area expected to serve as a stimulus to further development. Its location will enable the Library to host social, cultural, civic, and performing art programs, as well as art exhibits that will encourage other pedestrian activities along the Park-to-Bay promenade, as well as projects that will enliven the downtown area.

**Sufficiently large to permit design of a fully-functional library and to provide on-site parking:** In a dense urban core such as San Diego’s downtown, it is unusual to find a site that will accommodate close to a city block of library space. Whereas the current site has no parking, the new Main Library will have 500 free or dedicated parking spaces.

