



LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY

LIBRARY NEWS

Peter V. Persic, Public Information Director 213 228-7555
630 W. Fifth Street, Los Angeles CA 90071 • Fax: 213 228-7569

Contact: (213) 228-7555

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“TOMORROW’S LIBRARIES TODAY: REBUILDING THE LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY” EXHIBIT ON VIEW AT CITY HALL BRIDGE GALLERY THROUGH JANUARY 22, 2010

Exhibit Celebrates Completion of Nation’s Largest Library Building Program with Illustrations of New Branch Libraries

“Tomorrow’s Libraries Today: Rebuilding the Los Angeles Public Library,” an exhibit illustrating the transformation of Los Angeles’ library facilities into one of the newest and most modern library systems in the nation, is on display at the Los Angeles City Hall Bridge Gallery, 201 N. Main St., through January 22, 2010. The exhibit is free and open to the public during regular hours, Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The exhibit uses artists’ renderings of the new libraries to chronicle the massive 20-year branch library construction program. The program rebuilt and expanded the city of Los Angeles’ system of 63 aging and inadequate branch buildings into 72 state-of-the-art libraries, including nine branches built in communities formerly without a library. It is the largest library construction program in the nation and was completed on time and under-budget. Cost savings allowed the addition of seven projects to the original program.

The architecture of each library is unique and reflects its specific community. Collectively, the branches represent an astonishing range of architecture styles, including classical Beaux-Arts, Craftsman, Modernist, Spanish Revival and Contemporary Asian, among others. The program involved many notable architects including Michael Graves, Steven Ehrlich and Barton Phelps. Many branches have also received design and architecture awards.

“By any measure, the Los Angeles Public Library’s branch construction program is an

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extraordinary success,” said City Librarian Martín Gómez. “It transformed a good library system into one of the nation’s greatest. It has enriched neighborhoods throughout Los Angeles by creating libraries that are vibrant community centers. Most importantly, it gives Angelenos the resources they need to reach their goals and enrich their lives.”

“Tomorrow’s Libraries Today: Rebuilding the Los Angeles Public Library,” is sponsored in part by the City of Los Angeles’ Department of Cultural Affairs.

The Los Angeles Public Library serves the largest urban population of any library in the country. Its Central Library, 72 branch libraries, over six million books, and state-of-the-art technology provide everyone with free and easy access to information and the opportunity for life-long learning. For more information, visit the Library’s Web site at www.lapl.org.

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