



LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY

LIBRARY NEWS

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More Than 300 Community Members Attend Opening for Silver Lake Branch, L.A.'S Most Automated Library

Event Marks End to Nation's Largest Library Building Program

More than 300 community members joined Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Council President Eric Garcetti, City Librarian Martín Gómez and other dignitaries to celebrate the Nov. 16 grand opening of the Silver Lake Branch Library, at 2411 Glendale Blvd.

The event marked the conclusion of the largest library-building program in the United States. The branch is the newest and most automated library in the Los Angeles Public Library system, and is the city's first to utilize an RFID automated book check-in and sorting system with a computerized conveyor belt designed to increase efficiency and accuracy of book returns.

The facility also is "eco-friendly" and built to meet the U. S. Green Building Council's Gold LEED standards as an environmentally sustainable design with minimal impact on the environment.

"The new Silver Lake Branch embodies libraries at their finest and brings the library of the future to our city today," says City Librarian Gómez. "This latest branch demonstrates how we are applying smart technologies and sound environmental practices to enrich our neighborhoods and increase access to information for everyone."

The \$335-million bond construction program, begun in 1989, was completed on time and under-budget after rebuilding more than 90 percent of the city's libraries and expanding the number of branch libraries from 63 to 72. The Silver Lake Branch is among nine new branches built in communities previously without libraries, and one of seven additional projects funded through savings realized from the bond construction program.

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The new 13,600-square-foot library features special areas for children, teens and adults, a multipurpose meeting room, a storytelling area and parking. The branch also has a collection of multimedia materials, 26 public computers and free Wi-Fi access.

The new Library's "green" features include low-flow plumbing and irrigation to reduce water use by 30 percent; special mechanical systems, a new photovoltaic skylight system that makes the building 20 percent more energy efficient; and the extensive use of rapidly renewable materials such as bamboo for construction. *[See attachment for more information.]*

The automated materials handling system checks in and sorts books and other materials as they are placed on a conveyor belt by patrons at specially designed stations. The self-checkout stations are equipped to check out multiple items at once, and payment stations allow patrons to pay fees by cash or credit card.

M2A Milofsky, Michali & Cox designed the building, and Artist Christina Ulke created the site-specific art project composed of quotes from notable Silver Lake residents, which were placed throughout the Library.

The Los Angeles Public Library serves the largest urban population of any library in the country. Its Central Library, 72 branch libraries, 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 further information, visit the Library's Web site at www.lapl.org.

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“Eco-Friendly” Silver Lake Branch Built to Attain LEED-Certified “Gold Standard” Building

The Silver Lake Branch of the Los Angeles Public Library is the city’s newest eco-friendly “green” library.

The 13,600-square-foot building is part of the city’s Sustainable Design Implementation Program (SDIP), which uses the LEED-New Construction rating system developed by the U.S Green Building Council. The U.S Green Building Council has four certification levels (Certified, Silver, Gold, Platinum) awarded according to achievement as evaluated by points using the LEED scorecard.

The following outlines a few of the design features employed at the Silver Lake Branch to attain Gold certification.

1. **Alternative Transportation:** A shower and changing room have been provided for library employees who choose to cycle to work.
2. **Landscape & Exterior Design to Reduce Heat Island:** Additional shade trees, covered parking and “Energy Star” reflective roof were provided to reduce the site’s heat absorption.
3. **Light spill:** Fixtures were selected to reduce horizontal and vertical light spill to help preserve “night sky”.
4. **Water Efficient Landscaping:** Drought tolerant and local species were selected to reduce the use of potable water for irrigation by 50%.
5. **Water Use Reduction:** Low-flow plumbing fixtures and a highly efficient landscape irrigation system were selected to reduce water consumption by 30%.
6. **Optimize Energy Performance:** The building will be 37% more energy efficient than stringent Title 24 code requirements through the utilization of efficient mechanical systems, increased insulation, double glazing with high-efficiency glass coatings, and naturally lit reading rooms with automatic light fixture dimming.
7. **Power generation:** The rooftop photovoltaic panels generate electricity from the sun. A new integrated photovoltaic skylight demonstration project is included at the entry to increase the output and provide educational benefits. Lobby display will monitor energy production.
8. **Fundamental Refrigerant Management:** The HVAC system is designed to operate without environment-harming CFC-based refrigerants.
9. **Green Power:** At least 70% of the Library’s electrical requirements will be provided through contracts to encourage renewable energy production.
10. **Construction Waste Management:** Over 75% of the construction debris was recycled.
11. **Recycled Content:** At least 45% of the construction cost was spent on recycled materials.
12. **Regional Materials:** Approximately 45% of the total construction materials used for the library were from sources within 500 miles of the project, thus reducing the greenhouse gases.
13. **Rapidly Renewable Materials:** Rapidly renewable materials such as bamboo flooring and cabinetry were utilized for the construction.
14. **Low Emitting Adhesives, Solvents, Paints and Carpet:** Materials specified for the Library meet the standards to minimize the emission of toxins into the atmosphere.
15. **Green Housekeeping:** The Library is committed to the use of cleaning products that comply with Green Seal’s GS-37 Standard.