

# SANTA MONICA PUBLIC

# LIBRARY

April 2007

## Main Library Quick Facts

- 104,000 sq. ft. library facility
- Additional 5,000 sq. ft. for the Santa Monica Historical Society Museum
- Landscaped area—20,000 sq. ft.
- Three-level subterranean public parking garage with 530 spaces
- Street-level, metered parking lot (enter from 7th Street) for short-term and handicapped parking
- Capacity for library materials—400,000 items
- 150 public computers (70 for public access Internet)
- Building-wide Wi-Fi Access
- Reader Seats—571
- Meeting Room Capacity—300

## Main Library Location/Hours

601 Santa Monica Blvd.  
Santa Monica, CA 90401  
[www.smpl.org](http://www.smpl.org)

### Library Hours

Monday-Thursday 10 a.m.-9 p.m.  
Friday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.  
Sunday 1-5 p.m.

### Parking Garage Hours

Daily 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.  
\$0.50/30 mins.

## Telephone Services

General Info. 310/458-8600  
Reference 310/434-2608  
Catalog Assistance 310/458-8614  
Renewals 310/451-1866  
TDD Reference 310/395-8499



## New Main Library Features

The new Main Library was designed by Moore Ruble Yudell (MR Y) of Santa Monica, recipient of the prestigious 2006 Architecture Firm Award from the American Institute of Architects.

The new library presents a strong civic presence on Santa Monica Blvd. in the heart of downtown. It includes multiple entrances, garden spaces, and window walls to engage users and passersby.

### A Place To READ ■ CONNECT RELAX ■ LEARN

The Main Library, which opened in January 2006, is a wonderful community space that provides improved access to information, collections, services and programs. It offers a variety of comfortable indoor and outdoor seating and amenities such as the Bookmark Café and the Friends of the Library Bookstore.

Our collections are fully accessible, and it is easy to browse our face-out and themed book and multimedia displays and peruse our well-lit, wide shelving aisles. We offer a state-of-the-art facility with raised floors and “smart” building technology. Our electronic infrastructure and re-

sources support building-wide Wi-Fi access, 150 public computers (61 with Internet access), and self-service checkout stations. The Computer Training Room offers a popular series of free computer classes.

We also offer a variety of spaces to meet individual and group needs. These include study rooms, a quiet study room, teen lounge, and youth activity room. The Library features free public programs for all ages and interests in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Auditorium on the ground level and Multipurpose Room and Community Room on the second level. These spaces may also be rented by community groups.

### First Floor

*Paseos*, or interior streets, direct visitors to activity centers, such as a large area for children and teens, fiction and popular collections, a grand reading room and customer service areas. Other features include a large, landscaped central courtyard, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Auditorium, Friends of the Library Bookstore and the Bookmark Café. There is also a separate space for the Santa Monica Historical Society Museum.

### Second Floor

Focuses on research and study with nonfiction, reference and periodicals collections and service points, the Santa Monica Collection, study rooms, a quiet reading area, the computer commons, computer training room, and community meeting rooms.

### Public art

“Underwater Canopy” by Carl Cheng adds to the visual appeal of the central courtyard. The Stanton Macdonald-Wright Library Mural series is installed on the second floor. Created in 1934-35 by the acclaimed artist for one of the original libraries, the mural is on loan from the Smithsonian American Art Museum. Funding for the conservation and installation of the murals was made possible in part by a grant from the California Cultural and Historical Endowment and by the City of Santa Monica.

### Public Parking

A 530-space subterranean garage and a street-level lot, for short-term and handicapped parking, provide additional parking in the downtown area.



*"We like to think that this new library celebrates all the best qualities of Santa Monica - its climate, its ideal scale of community, and the City's progressive concern for sustainable building & planning."*  
 John Ruble, FALA  
 MRY Partner-in-Charge



Central Courtyard

## An Award-Winning Library

- Awarded a Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) Gold rating by the U.S. Green Building Council
- American Institute of Architects, 2006 National Firm Award to Moore Ruble Yudell
- American Public Works Assoc., Southern California Chapter, 2006 Project of the Year Award
- International Interior Design Assoc., 2006 CALIBRE Environmental Award
- Los Angeles Business Council, Sustainability Award
- Los Angeles Business Council, 2006 Annual Los Angeles Architectural Award
- National Electrical Contractors Assoc., LA Award for Electrical Excellence
- Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute, Best Public/Institutional Building
- Public Relations Society of America, Southern California Chapter, 2006 Prism Award for Main Library Grand Opening Campaign
- Southern California Development Forum, 2006 Honorable Mention Award

## Project Background

For many years, Santa Monica voters supported expanded library service resulting in the construction of the new Main Library, which opened in January 2006, and renovation of all three branch libraries, completed 2001-2003.

- 1988 bond passed to purchase land for Main Library expansion.
- 1998 bond passed by 81% to

fund library improvements.

A formal planning process, begun in 1996, included community focus groups, surveys and meetings, resulting in a Library Master Plan. Working from this plan and the Library Building Program, Moore Ruble Yudell (MRY) Architects & Planners of Santa Monica worked with a project team to formulate the conceptual design

for the Main Library. The design was approved by the Santa Monica City Council in 2002 after extensive community input.

Razing of the old library, construction of the three-level subterranean parking garage, and construction of the two-story Main Library was completed spring 2003 through winter 2005.

## Library-Garage Costs & Funding Sources

Nearly 50% of the new Main Library's cost was covered by the \$25 million bond measure approved by voters in 1998 and issued as General Obligation Bonds. \$2 million of these funds were used for branch library improvements completed 2001 to 2003. The remainder of the project was funded by one-time City monies and by Redevelopment Agency funds.

The Library project was completed on time and on budget.

Library Improvement	
Main Library Building	\$57.7 million
Branch Improvements	2.0 million
SM Historical Society Museum	1.3 million
Subterranean Parking Garage	12.9 million
Project Costs	\$73.9 million

How Costs Were Covered	
Voter-Approved Bonds	\$25.0 million
Capital Improvement Project Funds	15.0 million
Additional CIP Funds	21.0 million
Redevelopment Agency Funds	12.9 million
Project Costs	\$73.9 million

## Sustainable Building Features

The Main Library has received a Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) Gold rating by the U.S. Green Building Council. A "green" facility places high priority on health, environment, and resource conservation over the life of the building. Environmentally-friendly highlights of the Main Library are:

- The original site was reused and redeveloped.
- The roof is specially treated to reflect sunlight which re-

duces "heat islands," that contribute to smog.

- A 200,000 gallon cistern was constructed underneath the building to capture rainwater runoff. The storm water stored in the cistern will be used to irrigate the sustainable landscaped areas.
- Roof-top solar electric panels generate renewable energy for the building.
- More than 50% of the building materials contain significant recycled content.

## Project Team

- Architects** | Moore Ruble Yudell
- Landscape Architect** | Pamela Burton & Co.
- Public Art** | Carl Cheng
- Interior Furnishings** | CNI Design
- Signage** | Beck & Graboski
- Bookmark Café** | Gary Wallack
- Contractor** | Morley Builders
- Structural Engineers** | Nabih Youssef Assoc.
- MEP Engineers** | Syska Hennessey
- LEED Consultant** | CTG Energetics
- Project Management** | City of Santa Monica

