

LIBRARY

On Exhibit: Progress

Library exhibit at City Hall celebrates completion of nation's largest library building program.



Artist's rendering of the Pico-Union branch of the Los Angeles Public Library.

"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 City Hall Bridge Gallery, 201 N. Main St., through Jan. 22. 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's 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 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 Cultural Affairs. Information: www.lapl.org.



Artist's rendering of the Exposition Park branch of the Los Angeles Public Library.



Artist's rendering of the Arroyo Seco branch of the Los Angeles Public Library.

Newsbriefs

VOLUNTEER AT BANNING:

The Banning Museum is seeking new volunteers for a variety of programming opportunities and will host four "Get to Know Us" receptions for prospective volunteers. The "Get to Know Us" receptions will take place at 11 a.m. Fri., Jan. 29; Sat., Jan. 30; Fri., Feb. 12; and Sat., Feb. 13 in the Museum's Library in the Barn at 401 East "M" St., Wilmington. Interested parties need to make reservations for one of the dates above, not for all dates. Please contact the Museum at (310) 548-7777 to RSVP.

Volunteers at the Banning Museum attend a training class to gain the background necessary to offer public tours and special group tours of the house, Stagecoach Barn and grounds. Once the training class is completed, the volunteers are able to participate in a full range of museum programs including conservation and maintenance of antiques, participating in decorative arts exhibitions, special events, Museum Shop assistance, lecture and discussion committees, Living History Program and the school program. The museum's school program is designed to introduce fourth-grade students to local cultural and historical heritage and require additional training to familiarize volunteers to the program details.

BANNING VALENTINE:

Friends of Banning Museum welcome members and guests to celebrate Valentine's Day at the fifth annual Valentine's "Tea & Tunes." The event will take place from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 13, at the Banning Residence Museum, 401 East M Street in Wilmington. This event is \$50 for museum members, \$60 for non-members and reservations are required. Please call (310) 548-2005 for reservations or for further information.

The Banning Residence and Museum is a Rec and Parks facility.

Members and guests will enjoy tea and live entertainment. Complimentary tours of the museum and a special "Victorian Parasols" exhibition assembled especially for this event will follow the program.

This event is part of the Friends of Banning Museum's Garden Parlor Series. The Friends of Banning Museum is a nonprofit corporation, founded to develop the historic Banning Museum. Our mission is to "Preserve History, Promote Education and Inspire Entrepreneurial Spirit."

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