

# Library Users Association

P.O. Box 170544, San Francisco, CA 94117-0544

Tel./Fax (415) 753-2180

April 29, 2010

San Francisco Youth Commission  
City Hall, Room 345  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Subject: Presentation about Library May 3 - Focus on Interim Library Services

Dear Commissioners:

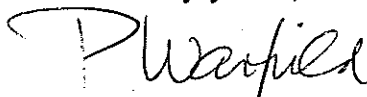
Thank you for providing the opportunity to present some concerns related to San Francisco Public Library's service to the public -- and in particular the library's unwillingness to provide full-time, full interim library service where branches are closed for renovation or rebuilding.

Fully one quarter of the library's regular 27 branches are currently closed for renovation. (Anza, Golden Gate Valley, Merced, Parkside, Presidio, Park.) Six have only bookmobiles as replacements -- not a storefront or other facility, like part of a school or Park and Rec facility, as we have urged. A seventh library, Ortega, was torn down, but continues operation at an interim facility in an adjoining Recreation and Parks Department facility.

A bookmobile is good for a parade or a street fair -- but it does not replace a library facility. And the SFPL's bookmobiles provide only 5-8 hours of service per week, per location -- never at night, and only two of six have weekend hours.

We attach some additional information, and welcome your questions and comments.

Sincerely yours,



Peter Warfield  
Executive Director

# Library Users Association

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## Materials Attached for May 3, 2010:

1. Six branches that are temporarily closed for renovation have only 5-8 hours of bookmobile service per week:

*See: "Branch Bookmobile Services."*

2. Library has recently saved millions on renovation costs because of many competitive bids received in the current the poor economy -- but has transferred the savings, plus other funds, into construction scope enhancements -- nothing for interim library service.

*See: February 1, 2010 memo from City Librarian Luis Herrera to Library Commissioners, "Agenda Item #4 - Branch Library Improvement Program Budget Transfers."*

3. Library's stated budget priorities for FY 10-11 has at the top of the list, "Maintain Public Service hours."

*See: February 4, 2010 "FY 10-11 Budget Proposal"*

4. Additional background materials.

LUA - Attachment list



*Weekly Hours*

**BRANCH BOOKMOBILE SERVICES:**

**ANZA BOOKMOBILE**

TUESDAY: 10:30 A.M-1:00 P.M 2 1/2  
 SATURDAY: 1:30 P.M – 5:00 P.M 3 1/2 *> 6 hrs.*

**GOLDEN GATE VALLEY BOOKMOBILE**

TUESDAY: 10:00 A.M-12:30 P.M 2 1/2  
 FRIDAY: 2:15 P.M- 5:30 P.M 3 1/4 *> 5 3/4*

**MERCED BOOKMOBILE**

MONDAY: 10:00 A.M- 12:30 P.M 2 1/2  
 SATURDAY: 10:00 A.M-12:30 P.M 2 1/2 *> 5*

**PARKSIDE BOOKMOBILE**

MONDAY: 1:00 P.M- 5:00 P.M 4  
 WEDNESDAY: 1:00 P.M- 5:00 P.M 4 *> 8*

**PRESIDIO BOOKMOBILE**

WEDNESDAY: 10:00 A.M- 12:30 P.M 2 1/2  
 FRIDAY: 10:00 A.M- 12:30 P.M 2 1/2 *> 5*

**PARK BOOKMOBILE**

TUESDAY: 3:30 P.M – 7:00 P.M 3 1/2  
 WEDNESDAY: 1:00 P.M – 5:00 P.M 4 *> 7 1/2*

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LUA - Attachment 1



San Francisco Public Library

Date: February 1, 2010

To: Honorable Library Commissioners

From: Luis Herrera, City Librarian

Re: AGENDA ITEM #4 – BRANCH LIBRARY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM BUDGET TRANSFERS

This memo provides background for the discussion and possible action of Branch Library Improvement Program budget transfers at the February 4, 2010, meeting of the Library Commission. The discussion and requested action consists of three elements: 1) transfer of funds from available sources to the Program Reserve, 2) approve a revised project budget for the new Bayview Branch library, and 3) transfer of funds to three project budgets to meet identified needs.

1) The Branch Library Improvement Program (BLIP) has made significant progress toward completion of its goals of renovating 16 branch facilities and building 8 new libraries. To date, 13 branches have been opened or reopened, 8 projects are in construction, two projects are in bid and award phase, and one is in design. At its November 19, 2009 meeting, the Library Commission approved the transfer of \$3,927,071 from completed, awarded, and program-wide accounts to the Program Reserve and \$3,378,177 to the Presidio and Visitacion Valley projects to fully fund construction. As a result of these actions, the Program Reserve currently totals \$5,709,790.

At this point, the BLIP management team has identified additional available funding from three sources: savings from the award of the Golden Gate Valley Branch construction project; the interest earnings from General Obligation (G. O.) Bond proceeds; and rent proceeds from the supermarket property that is now the site of the new Visitacion Valley Branch. On January 26, 2010, the Board of Supervisors approved Ordinance # 091465, appropriating the interest proceeds and rent funds (total \$1,743,767) mentioned above. Following Mayoral approval, this supplemental appropriation will be available for allocation to the BLIP. The sources and amounts are detailed below:

FUND SOURCE	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
Golden Gate Valley	\$2,960,042	Balance from project following bid award
G.O. Bond Interest	\$1,683,967	Interest proceeds
Visitacion Valley Rent	\$59,800	Funds paid by supermarket tenant prior to vacation and demolition
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,703,809</b>	<b>Funds available for Program Reserve</b>

"additional available funding" sources

The BLIP Management Team recommends that the Library Commission take action to transfer the above balance of funds to the Program Reserve, pending Mayoral approval, from which they may be distributed to the final set of projects, as needed. As a result of this action (1), the Program Reserve will total \$10,413,599.

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- 2) In June, 2008, the Library Commission authorized the City Librarian to pursue schematic design for a new single story Bayview Branch library building on the site of the existing facility and to pursue property acquisition of the adjacent property in order to expand the branch library to accommodate the community's current and future service needs. To ensure accurate estimating of the new project construction budget, the Commission accepted the Library's recommendation that the project budget be established following the pre-bid cost estimate for the fully designed branch library. In May 2009, the Library Commission approved the design and soft costs for the Bayview Branch project and transferred these funds to the project from the first sale of Lease Revenue Bonds. As a result of the action taken on May 21, 2009, the Bayview Branch project budget totaled \$4,985,778.

The Bayview Branch pre-bid cost estimate describes a total project budget of \$11,830,796, including \$1,210,795 in cost to purchase the adjacent property for the library expansion, \$7,003,501 in total construction, abatement, and contingency costs, and \$3,616,500 in design, management, fees, and other soft costs. The Library and DPW request that the Library Commission take action to (2) approve the project budget for Bayview as \$11,830,796.

- 3) The project budget for the Bayview Branch project, as detailed above, requires an increase to the project of \$6,845,017, which may be achieved through a transfer from the Program Reserve.

In addition, pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Branch Library Improvement Program (BLIP) between the Department of Public Works (DPW) and the San Francisco Public Library (SFPL), the BLIP management team has continued to monitor each BLIP project, identify any variations between cost estimates and the current approved budgets, and report these changes in a timely manner. Changes to two project budgets have been reviewed with SFPL management and are detailed below:

- Park – As discussed at the April 16, 2009, meeting of the Library Commission, and in subsequent BLIP updates, the Park Branch project has experienced several months of delay due to a number of factors. Following the February 5, 2009, peer review, SFPL and BLIP staff held additional community meetings and incorporated design changes in response to feedback. Further design changes were necessitated by recent amendments to ADA requirements, particularly impacting the building's exterior ramp, entrance, and book drop. The Park Branch project was a topic of discussion at the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) meetings of September 16 and October 7, 2009, during which the HPC considered the possibility of initiating a landmark study for the branch and decided to defer this initiation until completion of the branch construction project. As a result of these discussions, design changes were developed in response to requests from the HPC and recommendations from BLIP historic preservation consultant Page & Turnbull. Each of these processes contributed to the overall scope of this project, redesign, and increased costs.

More significant cost impacts result from recommended upgrades to the mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems, window and roof repairs, and the building's existing

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LUA - Attachment 2  
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elevator, none of which had been included in the original project scope. The total increase to the Park Branch project is \$1,267,043.

- Potrero – During the bid and award phase for the Potrero branch, now near completion, the project originally received a small number of bids, all well over the assigned budget, thus prompting an expedient re-design and re-bid of the project to reduce costs. The April 14, 2008, action of the Library Commission to increase the Potrero budget by \$665,250 allowed the construction contract to be awarded and the project to move forward. The outstanding costs for re-design and re-bid were later assessed to be \$103,233. Additional costs for the security card reader system (\$66,942), HVAC control system (\$46,422), and Roulan ceiling alternate (\$55,000) were not included in the original design bid and are addressed by the requested total increase of \$271,597.

A summary of the approved budgets, requested budget change, and newly proposed budgets for these two projects is provided in the following matrix:

PROJECT	APPROVED BUDGET	BUDGET CHANGE	PROPOSED BUDGET	REASON
Bayview	\$4,985,778	+\$6,845,018	\$11,830,796	Pre-bid cost estimate for new construction
Park	\$1,631,850	+\$1,267,043	\$2,898,893	ADA accessible exterior changes; elevator; mechanical, electric, plumbing systems; extended design and bid phases
Potrero	\$5,155,250	+\$271,597	\$5,426,847	Re-bid/re-design fees; added program requirements including security card reader system, HVAC controls, ceiling materials
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$8,383,658</b>		

How the money is to be spent

The Library and DPW staff request that the Library Commission take action at the February 4, 2010, meeting to transfer the above noted funds from the Program Reserve to the Bayview, Park, and Potrero Branch projects. As a result of this action (3), the above projects will be fully funded through construction and the Program Reserve will total \$2,029,941.

Note \$8.4 to be spent on added construction scope - nothing for full intern service at storefront etc closing closures.

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LUA-Attachment 2 P 3 of 3

# FY 10-11 Budget Proposal

## DISCUSSION WITH THE LIBRARY COMMISSION

February 4, 2010

# FY 10-11 Budget Priorities

## Projected Budget Timeline

- Jan. 7: Budget update and priorities discussion w/ Commission
- **Feb. 4: Submission of preliminary budget to Commission**
- Feb. 18: Commission's approval of final FY 10-11 budget
- Feb. 22: Budget submission due to Controller's Office
- Mar. 1: Controller's submission of all budgets to the Mayor's Office
- June 1: Mayor's proposed budget introduced to the Board
- Mid-June: Budget Committee hearings
- July: Budget approval at full Board

*LUA-Attachment 3*  
*P1062*

### FY 10-11 Budget: Priorities

- Maintain Public Service hours
- Maintain collections
- Targeted technologies
- Facilities
- Public Safety
- Workforce Development

### FY 10-11 Budget Strategy

- Refine staffing, \$2.7M:
  - Review and adjust Main and Branch staffing requirements
  - Implement efficiencies in support functions
- Reduce collections spending to FY 08 level, \$1.6M
- Reduce non-salary, non-collection spending, \$1.1M
- Apply \$6.1 M of available fund balance to cover debt payment of \$2.5 M and the remaining gap of \$3.6M
- Continue efforts to reduce gap

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*Note Park Branch Library  
was closed in the same  
month (Feb 2010) that  
this document was presented  
to Lib Comm. Park Br service  
to Lib Comm. 7.5 hrs/week bookmobile.*

*LUA- Attachment 3  
p 2 of 2*



# [blatantberry]



Don't blow off even the most annoying, noisiest critics of the library

## Another Damned Gadfly

EVERY LIBRARY ENDURES CRITICS—ANNOYING, questioning nuisances who plague library trustees, administrators, and front-line staff. *Gadfly* is the most popular label administrators use to describe such folk. It is natural to dislike a gadfly, and that must be why the ugly metaphor of a biting, irritating, detestable insect, small enough to write off as a minor annoyance, is such a favorite with library higher-ups.

Some gadflies fit the description, but many turn out to be serious library supporters, with a valid case to press on those who run their libraries. Library administrators all too frequently dismiss any noisy critic as “a nut” or an ill-informed pest. As often as not, blowing off these critics is a mistake.

In the decades-long San Francisco Public Library (SFPL) wars, Steven A. Coulter, once president and still a member of the San Francisco Library Commission, labeled SFPL critics both on the staff and from the public as “the gadfly element.” The best account of the SFPL wars is “Once and Future Library,” from Nicholas Basbanes’s wonderful book, *Patience & Fortitude* (HarperCollins, 2001).

I am in touch with several gadflies from across the nation. Their information, different from the usual library publicity, provides insights we could get no other way. The range of their interests, although always focused on libraries, and the variety of their styles render any generalizations about them misleading.

Some of them are part of our American tradition of opposing any and all taxes. Some have religious or ideological agendas. Some seem just plain crazy. Most, however, have broad interests in library operations and actually share our value system, at least the one we learned in library school. Recently, for example, Peter Warfield called. He is a long-laboring activist who commands a battalion called the Library Users Association in those SFPL conflicts. He told me he had been appointed to the brand new Library Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), just created by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, over opposition from some library officials (see News, LJ 6/15/04, p. 18ff.). Warfield’s appointment, the first to CAC, must have sent a shiver through the Library Commission and the administrators at SFPL (the current director left for Tucson last month). Warfield was appointed to CAC by

Board of Supervisors president Matt Gonzalez, the Green Party candidate for mayor who got 47 percent of the vote in the last San Francisco election.

Warfield asked not to be called a gadfly. He sees himself as a supporter of SFPL and a library user advocate. He was a partisan in successful battles to fight off the library working with a collection agency to garner overdue fines, an issue on which we agree. He currently works to ensure proper use of bond monies for branch library improvement, opposes the application of RFID technology, and seeks to change the general “book deemphasis” at SFPL. That last issue dates back to Nicholson Baker’s famous *New Yorker* article “The Author vs. the Librarian” (10/14/96, p. 50–62).

My chats with Warfield always remind me what a mistake it is for library officials to disregard citizen critics. Warfield has tremendous perseverance. He does his homework, often in more detail than his library adversaries. He never gives up. People like Warfield may turn up on your board, commission, or at your hearing. Most important, Warfield frequently has solid ideas, worth considering. Sometimes he is simply right.

I remember, with a certain joy, when one major urban library appointed the union shop steward to be its director. Things may not turn out that dramatically at your library, but it is still a pretty good idea to listen to that critic and restrain your impulse to dismiss him or her as just another damned gadfly.

John N. Berry III, Editor-in-Chief  
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# Sandy Speaks: A *Counterpoise* Interview with Sanford Berman

Interviewed by Kristin Hoyer

From an exchange of letters with Sanford Berman. His replies were received on 3 March 2005.

**Counterpoise (CP):** Were you surprised when the American Library Association awarded you honorary membership, its highest award? Do you feel ALA has supported you in the work you have done?

**Sandy Berman (SB):** Not entirely, since I'd been forewarned about the nomination. I confess, though, that nearly every time I get an ALA envelope in the mail, I wonder if it's going to be an oops!-sorry-for-the-mistake-but-please-send-back-the-award message. While there was no chance at the award ceremony to make an acceptance speech, I wanted to say something like this:

You do me a great honor today. Yet an even greater honor, both for me and all of you—the whole Association—would be to energetically promote and implement ALA's Poor People's Policy, which has essentially remained dormant since 1990, and to add to the "Personnel Practices" policy a clause affirming free speech for library workers.

Although happy for the recognition (especially when still fit enough to enjoy it)—and truly overwhelmed by the loud and loving ovation at the Orlando presentation—the truth is that a number of other people also deserve such affirmation and applause. Thus, without doing a humility trip, I want to now share the award with:

- The late Noel Peattie, Sipapu editor, UC-Davis librarian, poet, raconteur, reporter, printer, aesthete, social activist, philosopher, critic, publisher, sailor, cat-lover, and eccentric.
- Fay Blake, library educator, access-advocate, and unstoppable hell-raiser.
- Zoia Horn, the very embodiment of intellectual freedom and personal courage.
- Celeste West, *Synergy* and *Booklegger Magazine* editor, the most awesome, electric, and incisive voice ever in library literature.
- Five selfless citizen-activists who love books and libraries so much that they're willing to fight for them: Peter Warfield and James Chaffee (San Francisco), Fred Whitehead (Kansas City, KS), Fred Woodworth (Tucson), and Nicholson Baker (Maine).

Has ALA supported my work? Well, some of ALA has. Sometimes. SRRT colleagues have surely been supportive. So have people in EMERT and GLBTRT. Once, for a brief, glorious period, the Subject Analysis Committee—under the leadership of an unusually responsive per-

**I confess, though, that nearly every time I get an ALA envelope in the mail, I wonder if it's going to be an oops!-sorry-for-the-mistake-but-please-send-back-the-award message.**