



Sacramento Public Library Facilities Vision

FINAL REPORT | 20 July 2023





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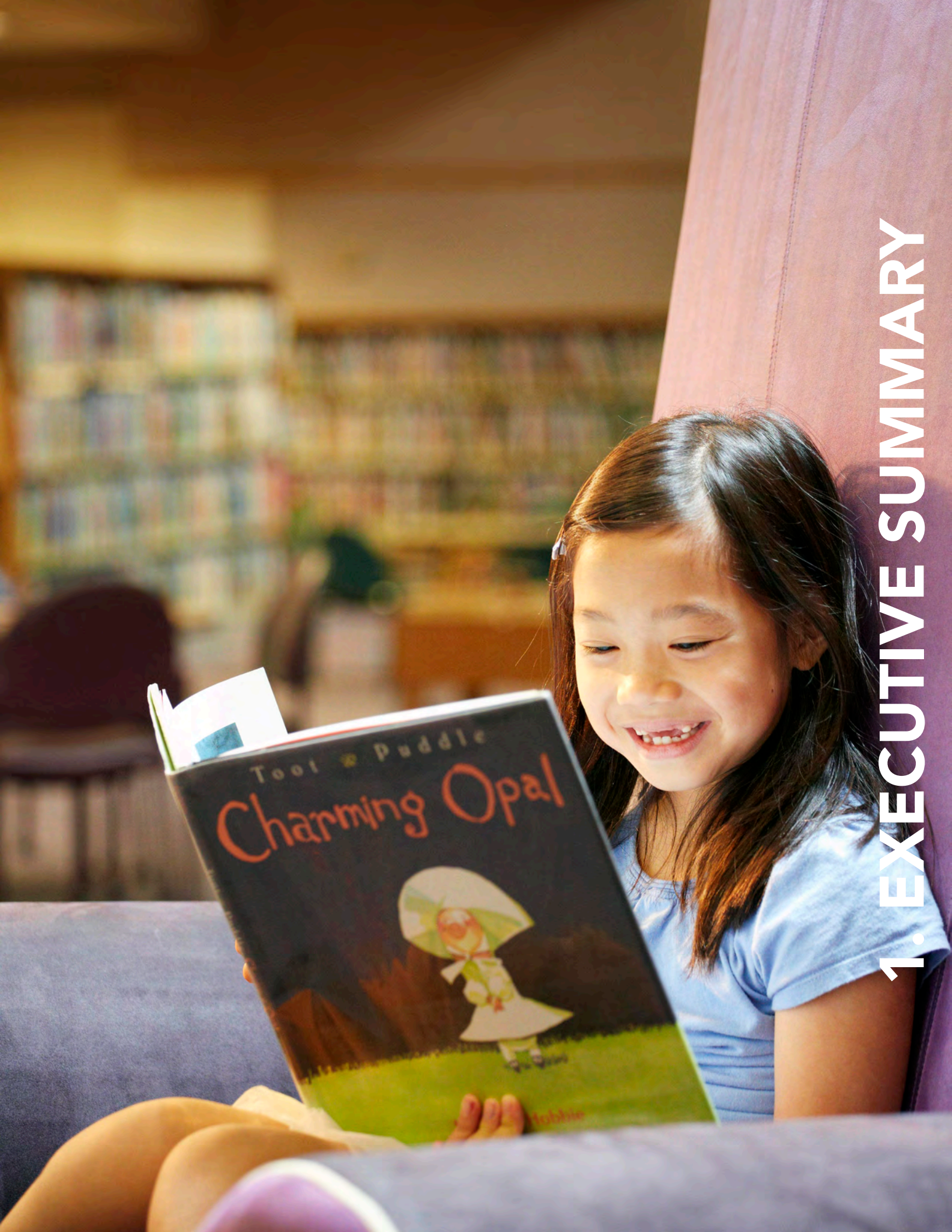
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

Sacramento Public Library (SPL; the Library) is a high-performing organization whose commitment, service, and positive impacts are cherished by the diverse communities it serves. Through its 28 libraries, bookmobiles, and outreach programs, SPL provides library service to all of Sacramento County except for the City of Folsom, which operates its own independent library. It has the fourth largest customer base of any library in California – with a current service population of nearly 1.5 million people.

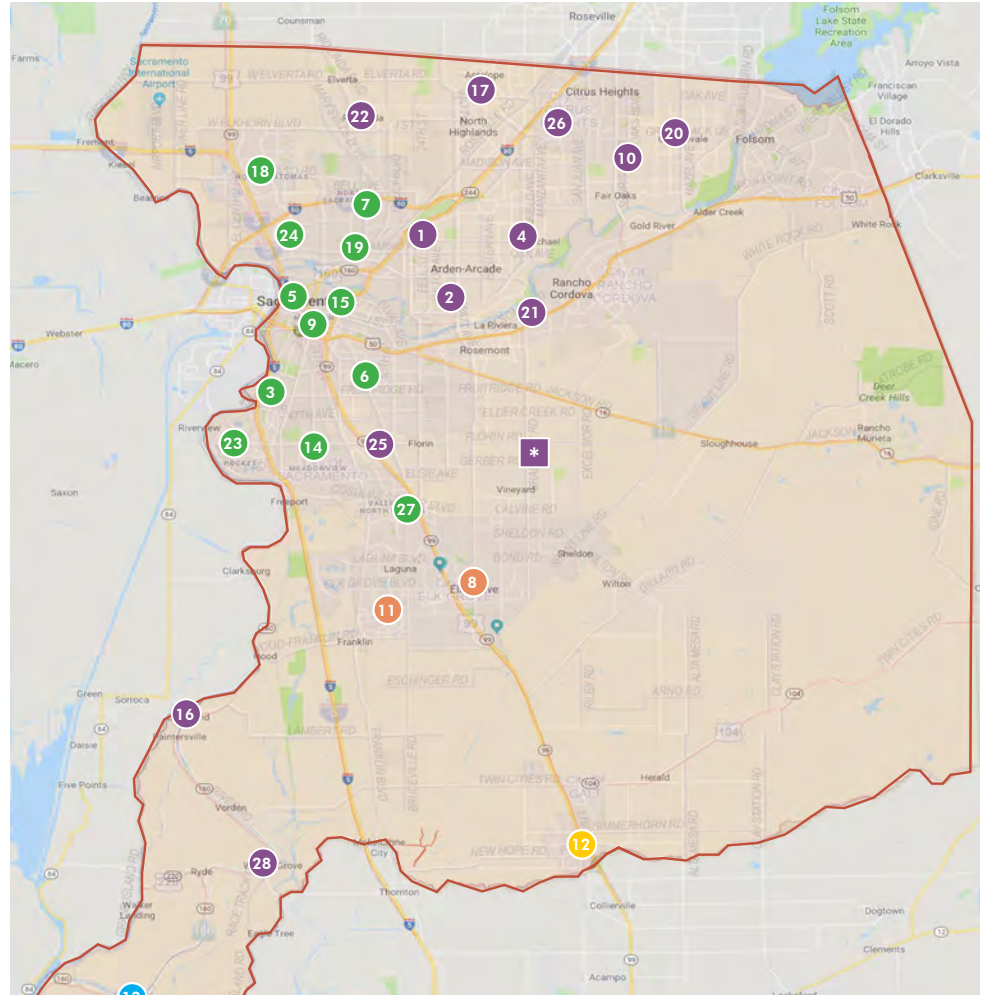
Unlike most California library systems that are city or county departments, SPL is a joint-powers authority (JPA). It is an independent public agency established by the County of Sacramento and the incorporated cities of Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Galt, Isleton, Rancho Cordova, and Sacramento through a joint powers agreement 30 years ago. SPL is governed by an Authority Board composed of elected officials appointed by each of these member jurisdictions.

Each JPA member jurisdiction is responsible for providing and maintaining library buildings for its community. SPL does not own or control any of the buildings it operates.

In 2019, SPL initiated a planning process to develop a system-wide vision of 21st century library spaces and facilities that support high quality library services for diverse Sacramento County communities. The process was designed to complement and build upon the County of Sacramento’s master plan for its 12 owned facilities (which is incorporated in this report as an appendix under separate cover). The process was put on hold temporarily during COVID library closures and SPL’s transition to a new library director. The project remobilized in the winter of 2022-2023 with robust staff and community engagement, and the Vision Plan process was completed in the summer of 2023.

Library Locations

- 1 Arcade
- 2 Arden-Dimick
- 3 Belle Cooledge
- 4 Carmichael
- 5 Central
- 6 Colonial Heights
- 7 Del Paso Heights
- 8 Elk Grove (Old Town)
- 9 Ella K. McClatchy
- 10 Fair Oaks
- 11 Franklin (Elk Grove West)
- 12 Galt - Marian O. Lawrence
- 13 Isleton
- 14 Martin Luther King, Jr.
- 15 McKinley
- 16 Nonie Wetzel Courtland
- 17 North Highlands - Antelope
- 18 North Natomas
- 19 North Sacramento-Hagginwood
- 20 Orangevale
- 21 Rancho Cordova
- 22 Rio Linda
- 23 Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven
- 24 South Natomas
- 25 Southgate
- 26 Sylvan Oaks
- 27 Valley Hi-North Laguna
- * Vineyard
- 28 Walnut Grove



LEGEND

- # Facility provided by County of Sacramento
- # Facility provided by City of Sacramento
- # Facility provided by City of Elk Grove / Elk Grove Unified School District
- # Facility provided by City of Galt
- # Facility provided by City of Isleton
- * Site of future library provided by County of Sacramento

*"I love the Sacramento Public Library!
It is one of Sacramento's most effective community institutions."
— community member*



Valley Hi-North Laguna Library provides the full range of modern library spaces including a large, flexible, and attractive teen space.

“I hope for the library to be more and more of a resource and PLACE for community building, especially focused on reading, writing, language, literacy, and education.”

— community member



Spaces in the Ella K. McClatchy Library, originally built for residential use, are too small, cramped, and inflexible for many modern library uses.

VISION FOR SPL FACILITIES

The vision for library spaces and facilities incorporates the ideas and input of thousands of Sacramento County residents, more than 250 SPL staff members, and representatives of JPA member jurisdictions. Key concepts and themes emerging through the visioning process include:

- Sacramento County communities love and appreciate SPL’s services, staff, and spaces;
- Expanded and enhanced library collections, programs, and space are needed for diverse and growing community needs; and
- Welcoming, inclusive, and well-maintained facilities are essential for providing high quality services and maximizing positive community impact.

Several of SPL’s facilities showcase the vision of agile and appealing 21st century library spaces. Facilities such as the North Natomas Library, Valley Hi-North Laguna Library, and Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library provide ample space for people, programs, collections, and technology of interest to diverse, multi-generational communities. The Rio Linda Library is an example of a compact but highly flexible building that can easily adapt over the course of each day for changing user groups and different types of activities and programs. The Del Paso Library was recently reimagined to focus on youth and teens – making the most of a very small space.

However, SPL also has many facilities that fall well short of this vision. In some cases, the issue is the small size of the building. For example, the Ella K. McClatchy Library began its life as a large, stately residence that today is barely 20% of the minimum branch size recommended in the County of Sacramento’s 2021 Library Facilities Master Plan. Although attractive, the McClatchy Library’s originally residential building is simply too small and inflexible to support modern library service. The Marian O. Lawrence Library in Galt is also very small, but its site does appear to have the capacity for a building expansion.

Deferred maintenance backlog and needed repairs are a significant issue at some branches. One example is the Martin Luther King Jr. Library, which after more than five decades of service shows substantial wear and tear; in 2022, the California State Library recognized the extent of the King Library’s need for maintenance and modernization with grant funding of more than \$5.5 million. The Central Library in downtown Sacramento has suffered frequent interruptions in service and closures due to flooding from both plumbing system and roof leaks; cleaning up water-damaged equipment, furniture, and finishes has cost more than \$1 million – on top of the cost of repairing the leaks themselves.

RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES

In general, the potential strategies for SPL's facilities fall into the following categories:

- **Keep up to date** – addressing maintenance needs over time as appropriate to prevent failure of key building systems and keep each library fresh, welcoming, and in good working order.
- **Renovate/reinvent** – potentially redesigning older library buildings to modernize service, operations, and customer experience to align with SPL's vision. The planned renovation of the King Library is an example of this type of project.
- **Refocus** – for buildings that are too small to function as full-service libraries, making tenant improvements to focus on a strategic set of library services. The changes to the Del Paso Library to focus on services for children and teens is an example of this type of project.
- **Replace/new** – developing new full-service community libraries. New construction is the method through which some of SPL's largest and newest buildings (e.g., Pocket-Greenhaven, Valley Hi-North Laguna) have been developed. However, new construction is not the only way to build new libraries. There are many examples of developing vibrant, modern libraries through adaptive reuse of existing structures – such as the conversion of the old Sacramento News & Review Building into the new North Sacramento-Hagginwood Library.

The table on the following page summarizes the current state and recommended baseline strategy for each of SPL's current libraries. In some cases, there is also a proposed strategy for aligning service and space with the vision established through this planning process.

For Sacramento County's facilities, these recommendations are taken from the County's 2021 *Library Facilities Master Plan*. For the rest, these recommendations are provided for consideration by the jurisdictions providing each building.

SPL does not own any facilities and cannot unilaterally take steps toward implementation of these recommendations. Collaboration between SPL and the jurisdiction providing each facility will be needed in order to plan and implement facility improvements.



Martin Luther King, Jr. Library's planned renovation is a great example of a library with "good bones" being reinvented to meet the community's current library needs.

"I really hope to see nice and more modern looking buildings in the future with flexible floor plans and furniture (with a lot of outlets)."

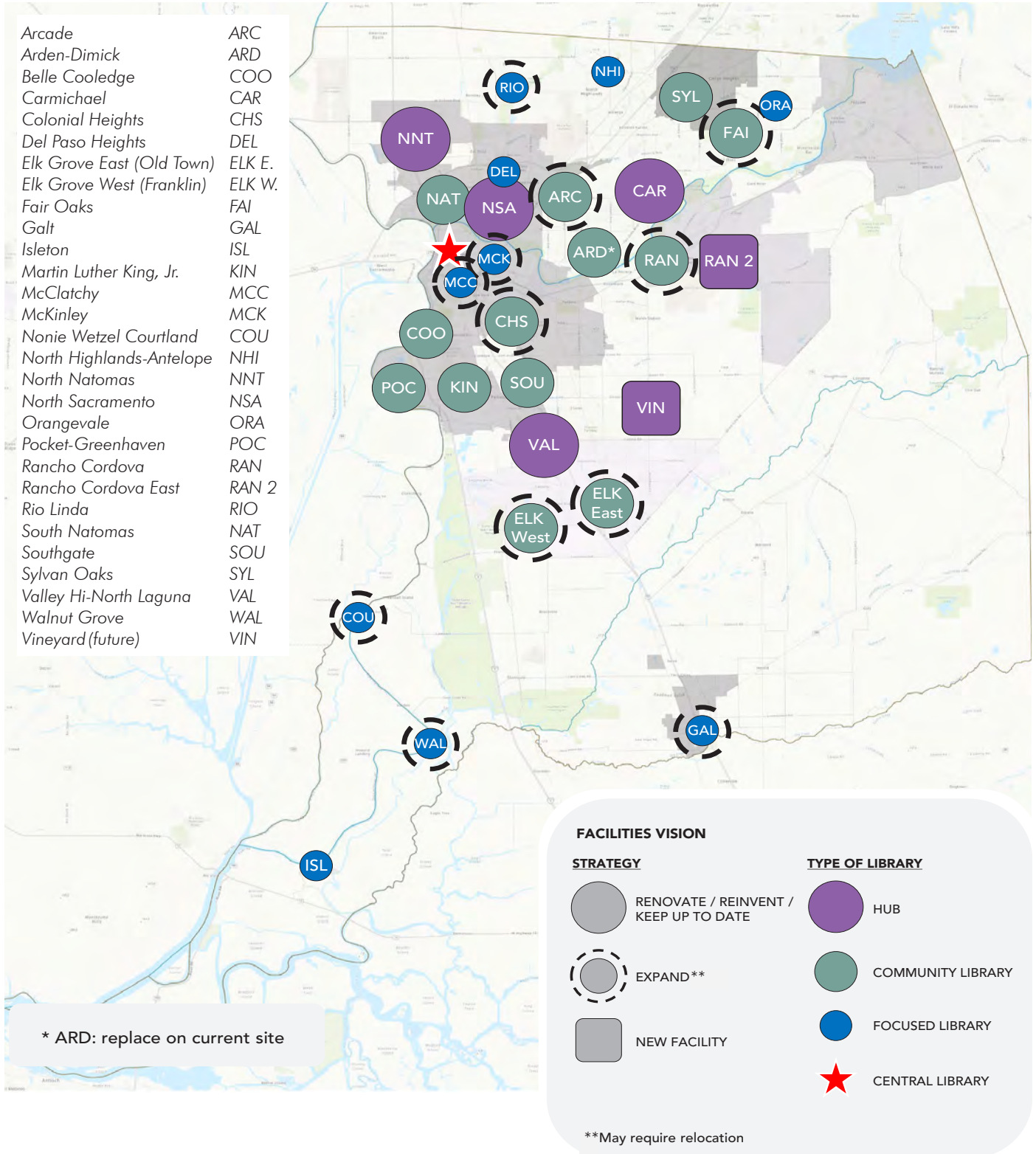
— SPL staff member



This interior rendering of the draft floor plan for the new Elk Grove (Old Town) Library demonstrates that amazing libraries can be achieved through the adaptive reuse of existing structures.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDED FACILITY IMPROVEMENT STRATEGIES

The recommended strategies for SPL facility improvements are shown on the map below and listed in the table on the following pages. Information about the County of Sacramento's library facility assessments and recommendations can be found in its 2021 *Library Facilities Master Plan*, which is an appendix to this report under separate cover. The library facilities provided by other JPA members are profiled in Chapter 6.



RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES FOR SACRAMENTO PUBLIC LIBRARY FACILITIES

Library	Current State	Recommended Baseline Strategy	Consider to Enhance / Expand Service
Arcade	Community library	Renovate	
Arden-Dimick	Community library in poor condition	Replace on current site	
Belle Coolegge	Community library	Renovate	
Carmichael	Hub library	Renovate	
Central Library	20th century downtown library	Renovate / Reinvent	Relocate to more functional + accessible site
Colonial Heights	Community library	Keep up to date	Expand to hub library; may need to relocate
Del Paso Heights	Focused library	Keep up to date	
Elk Grove East (Old Town)	Community library in poor location	Relocate and expand to hub library Currently in design	
Elk Grove West (Franklin)	Not meeting community needs	Keep up to date	Relocate and expand at District56 site
Ella K. McClatchy	Too small for full community service	Refocus for select services	Relocate and expand
Fair Oaks	Community library	Renovate	New facility
Galt-Marian O. Lawrence	Small community library	Keep up to date	Expand to add program room
Isleton	Very small remote library	Reinvent — special model	
Martin Luther King, Jr.	Community library	Renovate and reinvent Currently in design	
McKinley	Too small for full community service	Refocus for select services	Relocate and expand
Nonie Wetzel Courtland	Very small remote library	Renovate / Refocus	Relocate
North Highlands-Antelope	Community library	Renovate	

RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES (CONTINUED)

Library	Current State	Recommended Baseline Strategy	Consider to Enhance / Expand Service
North Natomas	Hub library	Keep up to date	
North Sacramento-Hagginwood	Very small library	Relocate and expand to hub library Currently in planning stage	
Orangevale	Small community library (leased)	Keep up to date	
Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven	Community library	Keep up to date	
Rancho Cordova	Community library	Renovate	Expand into area under eaves
Rancho Cordova #2 (East)	N/A	New branch to serve future growth area	
Rio Linda	Small community library (leased)	Keep up to date	Expand into adjacent lease space, if vacant
South Natomas	Community library	Refresh	
Southgate	Community library	Renovate	
Sylvan Oaks	Community library	Renovate	
Valley Hi-North Laguna	Hub library	Keep up to date	
Vineyard	N/A	New branch to serve future growth area	
Walnut Grove	Very small remote library	Renovate and refocus	Implement alternate service delivery strategies



2. INTRODUCTION + METHODOLOGY



PROJECT BACKGROUND

Sacramento Public Library (SPL) provides nearly 1.5 million urban, suburban, and rural residents of Sacramento County with diverse programs, services, and resources. It provides service to all of Sacramento County except for the City of Folsom, which operates its own municipal library. SPL is a Joint Powers Agency governed by a 15-member Library Authority Board comprised of elected officials of the County of Sacramento and each JPA member city.

SPL provides public service at 28 library facilities which are provided by the JPA members (16 in incorporated jurisdictions and 12 in Sacramento County). **The JPA members are responsible for the routine and capital maintenance of the library buildings and sites they provide as well as for renovation, expansion, relocation, or replacement as appropriate. SPL is responsible for library furnishings, materials, equipment, staffing, and custodial services.** Funding for SPL operations comes from County, Citrus Grove, Elk Grove, Galt, Isleton, and Rancho Cordova property taxes; and City of Sacramento General Fund/Measure U and parcel tax (Measures B and X) revenues.

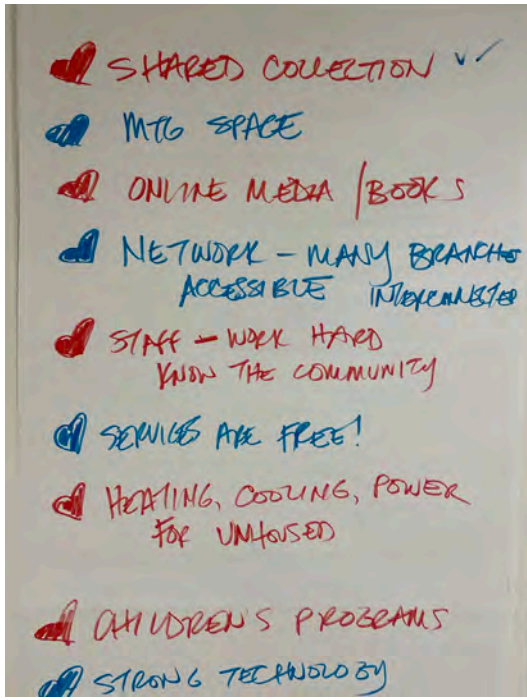
SPL last adopted a Facility Master Plan in 2007, shortly before the Great Recession substantially impacted major SPL funding sources and slowed implementation of the plan's vision. In 2011-2013, as economic conditions stabilized and the City of Sacramento adopted a new funding measure (Measure U) to restore scaled-back essential services, SPL and its member agencies opened four new library facilities in newer, growing, and underserved communities.



The 12 library facilities owned or leased by the County of Sacramento are located in unincorporated communities and in the recently incorporated City of Rancho Cordova. In 2019, the County initiated a master planning process for capital improvements to its current library facilities and for new libraries that may be needed in future growth areas. SPL recognized the opportunity to complement the County’s plan with a parallel process to articulate a clear vision for library services and spaces in all Sacramento County communities.

The COVID-19 pandemic began in early 2020. As a more technically focused project, the County’s library facilities master plan was able to proceed; it was completed in April 2021 and approved by the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors in June 2021. However, the schedule for SPL’s facilities visioning project was significantly affected by the pandemic as the Library adapted to a new reality of closed facilities, modified services and service delivery, and new access and equity challenges to being an essential resource for its communities.

Work on SPL’s plan continued incrementally through 2020 and as SPL started re-opening libraries in 2021. The project was then put on hold temporarily after the former library director retired in early 2022 and during SPL’s transition to new leadership. SPL remobilized the planning process in the fall of 2022 with new and enhanced engagement of staff, stakeholders, and the community to solicit ideas and input about what library services and spaces should look like in the post-COVID era.



FACILITY VISION PLAN METHODOLOGY

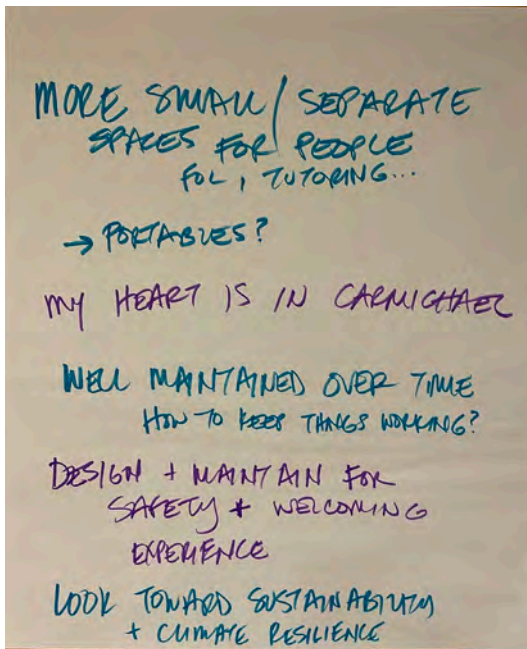
The planning process included review and assessments of the 16 SPL facilities owned or leased by the cities of Elk Grove, Galt, Isleton, and Sacramento and Elk Grove Unified School District. Tours of most of these facilities were conducted in December 2020 to observe current conditions related to library service, operations, and general customer experience.

The planning process incorporated information and data from a variety of sources:

- This plan accepts and incorporates the facility findings and recommendations in the County of Sacramento's 2021 *Library Facilities Master Plan* which is included as an appendix under separate cover.
- Sources for community demographics and population projections include the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG), the State of California's Department of Finance, and U.S. Census 2020.
- Service metrics and use data provided by SPL were combined with data compiled by the California State Library. Due to the extensive COVID-19 service shutdowns and interruptions beginning in early 2020, some analysis relied primarily on data from prior years (2018-2019). Service statistics in this report have been updated to 2022 data where possible.
- Relevant assessments, studies, and plans including the City of Sacramento 2017 Facility Condition Assessment – Measure U/Library Final Report (June 22, 2018); and the City of Elk Grove Library & Cultural Arts Facility Master Plan Feasibility Study Report (January 2020).

Engagement methods for this planning process included a community survey with more than 3,400 participants from throughout Sacramento County; six community listening sessions; a pop-up teen survey; a library staff survey with more than 200 participants; conversations with representatives of the Library JPA's member jurisdictions; and presentations to the Library Authority Board. The project was guided by members of SPL's Administration team including the Director, Deputy Directors, and Facilities Manager.

Detailed technical and maintenance assessments were beyond the scope of this planning study. Where maintenance and technical information is included in this report, it has been sourced from information provided by others.



PROJECT PARTICIPANTS

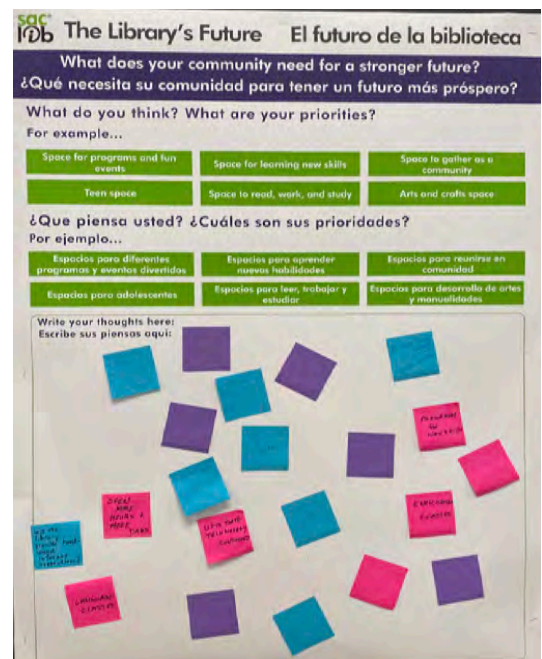
Thousands of people provided insight and input into the development of this planning process — far more than can be recognized by name here. Below is a partial list of people who participated in the development of this plan.

SACRAMENTO PUBLIC LIBRARY AUTHORITY BOARD

- Sue Frost, Supervisor, County of Sacramento, Board Chair
- Karina Talamantes, Councilmember, City of Sacramento, Board Vice Chair
- Rod Brewer, Councilmember, City of Elk Grove
- Rich Desmond, Supervisor, County of Sacramento
- Shawn Farmer, Councilmember, City of Galt
- Garrett Gatewood, Councilmember, City of Rancho Cordova
- Pat Hume, Supervisor, County of Sacramento
- Patrick Kennedy, Supervisor, County of Sacramento
- Sean Loloee, Councilmember, City of Sacramento
- MariJane Lopez-Taff, Councilmember, City of Citrus Heights
- Caity Maple, Councilmember, City of Sacramento
- Phil Serna, Supervisor, County of Sacramento
- Kevin Spease, Councilmember, City of Elk Grove
- Katie Valenzuela, Councilmember, City of Sacramento
- Mai Vang, Councilmember, City of Sacramento

CITY AND COUNTY STAKEHOLDERS

- Linda Budge, Mayor, City of Rancho Cordova
- Howard Chan, City Manager, City of Sacramento
- James Christensen, Public Works Manager, City of Sacramento
- Eric Guerra, Vice Mayor, City of Sacramento
- Jeff Harris, Former Councilmember, City of Sacramento
- Stephanie Nguyen, Former Councilmember, City of Elk Grove
- Don Nottoli, Former Supervisor, County of Sacramento
- Tim Schafer, City of Citrus Heights
- Bobbie Singh-Allen, Mayor, City of Elk Grove
- Darrell Steinberg, Mayor, City of Sacramento





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- Jarrid Keller, Deputy Director*
- David Hillier, Facilities Manager*
- Cathy Crosthwaite, Deputy Director*
- Rivkah Sass, Library Director & CEO (retired)*
- Alvaro Gomez, Library Assistant
- Barbara Ros, Branch Supervisor, North Sacramento-Hagginwood Library
- Bridget Laws, Branch Supervisor, McKinley Library
- Bryce Lovell, Branch Supervisor, North Natomas Library
- Cara Latham, Branch Supervisor, Colonial Heights Library
- Christy Aguirre, Branch Supervisor, Belle Cooledge Library
- Donna Zick, Early Learning and Development Manager
- Erica Naranjo, Branch Supervisor, South Natomas Library
- John Esquivel, Branch Supervisor, Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library
- Karen Stuepfert, Library Assistant
- Kelly Clark, Administrative Analyst
- Ken Chau, Library Assistant
- Michelle Brown, Branch Supervisor, Valley Hi-North Laguna Library
- Molly Milazzo, Librarian
- Nina Bochilo, Library Assistant
- Omar Azizi, Circulation Supervisor
- Ray Stanley, Branch Supervisor, Martin Luther King, Jr. Library (retired)
- Roxana Puerner, Administrative Analyst (retired)
- Stephanie Tafolla, Branch Supervisor, Elk Grove Library
- Yvette Rodriguez, Librarian

* Core Project Team members

All of the above,
plus employment
info & job
coaching, &
homework help for
grade-schoolers
& teens

Tool
Lending
Library

Saturday
Kids D

Programs
for Seniors:
learning
technology

Check out
Osher Lifelong
Learning Center
Dominican Univ of CA
Senior Lifelong
Learners support
interesting! Marie
model

MORE
community
outreach,
Paper News
letters

A BASKETBALL
machine

Learn new
SKILLS

OUTREACH to
the community
Beyond the Physical
Library building

E-readers,
digital books
in more formats,
tech support

Learning
space for
different
TOPICS

COMPUTER
CLASSES

PROGRAMS FOR
SENIORS
&
REPAIR
COMMUNITY

3. ENGAGEMENT THEMES



Community engagement event at Carmichael Library

INTRODUCTION

Sacramento residents were engaged in the process of creating this Facilities Vision through an online survey available in five languages – English, Spanish, Mandarin, Russian, and Farsi. The survey was widely promoted through Library communications and social media channels and through the seven community engagement events held at SPL locations in February and March 2023.

More than 3,400 Sacramentans responded to the community survey from January through March 2023. SPL staff were also engaged, through a survey which received responses from over 200 library employees. Survey questions were designed to find out what survey takers value and utilize in SPL's facilities and services and what could be improved or enhanced. Key stakeholders from SPL's member agencies were interviewed to provide their insight on local community needs, plans, and JPA participation.

The dominant themes that emerged from the community, staff, and stakeholder engagement are highlighted in the following sections. They are backed up by and consistent with the planning team's observations, assessments, and analysis metrics.



Teen patrons sharing their ideas at the community engagement event at Belle Cooledge Library.



COMMUNITIES LOVE THE LIBRARY

Sacramento communities are huge fans of SPL. They love the essential services that SPL offers, love their library staff, and love visiting and utilizing the library.

COMMUNITIES LOVE LIBRARY SERVICES

The community clearly loves and deeply values the Library's literacy, learning, and leisure materials, which will always be core to its services and service model. Respondents to the community survey overwhelmingly said that they love having access to and visiting SPL's big collection of books and materials and missed browsing and the thrill of discovering a new book at the library during the pandemic's pickup-only phase. The Library's collection, 1.275 million items strong, is shared across the whole system and, as one community survey respondent put it, is a deep well of "free information for a democratic society." Customers checked out physical materials over 2.6 million times and checked out 3.4 million digital materials in 2022.

The Library's also shares information and fosters lifelong learning through high-quality, frequent, and diverse programming. Last year over 3,000 in-person and virtual programs were put on by SPL staff, with a total attendance of 96,000 people. Programs cover a variety of topics, formats, and audiences, with a heavy emphasis on programs for early learning, technology, and creation. Beloved programs that were highlighted by residents during community engagement include storytimes (general, special needs, and bilingual), children's activities including

"I am so grateful for all the resources available through the library. People are always shocked when I share what we've been up to at the various locations and I always say... 'check out your library and support all the wonderful things they offer - for free!!'"

— community member



SPL's robust program offerings include Outdoor Early Learning activities.

"I am lucky, as a new parent, that others told me what a resource the public library is for educating and entertaining children. I didn't know how libraries have changed since I used them as a kid...."

— community member

"I enjoy the computers, printing, iPad stations, checking out books, sitting down inside library to read or skim through books."

— community member

crafts and STEM activities, teen programs, Zoom yoga, book clubs, author book discussions, English classes, and more.

The Library further fosters learning, information sharing, and community engagement by making the community rooms in which it hosts programs available free-of-charge for community meetings and activities. In 2022 SPL's meeting rooms hosted 800 events attended by 12,500 people.

Providing free access to technology and associated resources and support is also a core library service in the 21st century, creating a stronger and more equitable future for Sacramento County communities. Community members talked about the high cost of computers and internet access, which they noted can be challenges for seniors and people with limited financial resources; and they appreciated the ability to use the Library's computers to access the internet and specialized programs, print important documents, work, and enjoy games. The Library's public Wi-Fi access and laptop and internet access hotspot lending, accelerated during the pandemic, are further advancing digital inclusion in Sacramento County.

SPL customers logged almost 204,000 computer sessions on the Library's fleet of 780 computers in 2022. The Library's technology offerings include the popular kids computers, which offer fun learning programs, and tablets for in-library use. Library visitors today also bring more devices than ever before, hoping for fast Wi-Fi and access to power within a cord's length from a comfortable place to sit. Like SPL, many libraries have had to upgrade their facilities' power and data infrastructure, increase their internet capacity and speed, and extend Wi-Fi access in order to support customer devices as well as their own technology programs and equipment.



COMMUNITIES LOVE LIBRARY STAFF

People are repeat customers to libraries with staff they love, and Sacramentans love SPL staff. The second most chosen reason that community survey respondents visit their primary library location was “Friendly staff” (after “Close to my home”). Over one hundred engagement participants offered additional praise for library staff, including:

- “Great staff. They keep us coming back every Saturday.”
- “I love how welcoming library staff are.”
- “I appreciate the fact that employees that work [at SPL] have a love for literacy and want good things for our community.”
- “Staff work hard and know the community.”
- “[I enjoy] the interaction among patrons and staff”

SPL staff also love serving the Sacramento County community and helping the community’s needs be met. Staff welcome and assist patrons with all kinds of questions and needs, read stories at storytimes and guide children’s activities, develop and present teen and adult programs, make personalized book recommendations, select Lucky Day books, foster and support programming and service partnerships to offer at the library, and help build a sense of belonging and community. Through the staff survey conducted as part of this planning process, they offered plentiful insights into library services and community needs based on their work experiences and thoughtful suggestions to meet those needs.

“The library system is full of the most helpful staff I’ve ever encountered! I love my librarians! They are helpers in the true sense of the word!”

— community member

“Thank you to the librarians and everyone behind the scenes who make the Sacramento Public Library such a great place for the community.”

— community member



Sylvan Oaks Library

"[The library] Provides safe space and program options for teens at the nearby high school. Allows a diverse population of kids, families, teenagers, and independent adults to visit and access needed programs, materials, and services. Supports community groups by providing rooms for meeting."

— community member

COMMUNITIES LOVE THE LIBRARY AS A PLACE

SPL libraries are special places to Sacramentans, which they expressed with enthusiasm in the community survey and listening sessions. Unlike almost any other place, libraries are neutral, freely accessible, safe, and welcoming public spaces. The appeal of these spaces is undeniable: the Library's locations saw nearly 1.4 million visits in 2022 – equivalent to almost 90% of Sacramento County's population.

The Library's customers are diverse people with diverse interests. Patrons come to the library seeking services and places for learning, entertainment, gathering, social connections, quiet study/work, and of course books – and they find all these things, for free, at SPL. In response to questions about what they love and enjoy about the Library, an overwhelming majority of community members' responses had to do with the in-person offerings and experience.

In the words of just a few of the SPL community and staff engagement participants:

- "There's always something to discover at the library."
- "Just being in the library, seeing the kids and parents there, the other community members, it feels like a nice place to be in to see and interact with my community."
- "[The library] Provides space for patrons to get out of the elements, get access to computers, charge their devices, connect with news, jobs, and housing opportunities."



Arden - Dimick Library

- "Many low income folks come to this library for assistance with job resources and resume services."
- "[During the COVID-19 shutdowns I missed] Everything about SPL - chatting with librarians, cruising the shelves looking for enticing books, adult programs, displays, buying used books in the Book Nook."
- "Our community seems to appreciate the many comfortable places to sit, charge devices, read, and monitor their children while they look through books or play on the computers."
- "I am so happy the library is open. It's amazing and one the best places to go when I need to read or meet up for studying!"

"I have been coming to SPL since I was five and visited my first mobile library while living in low cost housing. I'm now 71. First Mabel Gillis Library, then McClatchy and now Central Library have made my life richer, because of the knowledge within and books and programs that provide real joy. I want to see everyone have access to what I've experienced."

— community member



COMMUNITIES WANT MORE LIBRARY SERVICES

"I miss the art classes that were available [pre-COVID] at the Robbie Waters library. I met people and learned new painting skills. It was fun."

— community member

More of a good thing? Yes please! Sacramento County residents want to see the Library build on its unique strengths and current services to help them realize a better future. Community requests for expanded library services include more fun and educational programming; being able to borrow more resources through SPL; and more accessible and diverse materials and services that reflect Sacramento County residents' diversity. Nearly half of all community engagement participants would also like to see SPL libraries open on more days and for longer.

COMMUNITIES WANT EXPANDED PROGRAMMING

"I would like to see the library have English classes in the afternoon to support the parents of school-aged children. Also, parenting classes and homework help after school would be great."

— community member

While many of us think of books as the primary way we share information and learn, person-to-person instruction and experiential learning are also an integral part of human culture. Meeting people with similar interests and learning together also helps people build community. Libraries, including SPL, have recognized the power of learning through classes and activities and developed a wide range of beloved learning and skill programs.

Community members would like to see SPL continue to develop as a learning community with a deep catalog of program offerings, held frequently; two thirds of community survey participants said that they and their community need fun programs and events and learning and skill-specific programs for a stronger future.



Some of the programming ideas shared by community members include:

- Fun programs for adults and seniors – e.g., film series, travel from the library, author talks, cultural programs, book clubs, crafts, family events where parents can connect, etc.
- Intergenerational learning – e.g., kids teach adults how to use tech, adults/seniors teach kids life skills like how to cook and balance a checkbook
- Opportunities to try something new – e.g., coding classes, Taiko drumming, writing workshops, basic tool use
- “Right brain programs” for kids and teens – i.e. arts and humanities programs to balance the STEM focus in schools, such as cooking, dancing, art, culture, movement
- Education and employment – e.g., classes in world languages, civics, media literacy, financial literacy, computer literacy, and tech skills for adults and seniors; English Language Learning classes paired with children’s activities; activities for homeschoolers; tech support sessions; college and job fairs; workforce skills and coaching, etc.
- Health and wellness – e.g., cooking, meditation, active lifestyles, gardening, healthy families, mental health, first aid, conflict resolution, etc.
- Programming for and about people with disabilities

“I want my library... to offer small classes / workshops to learn new skills, i.e. how to sew, build small things, do taxes, info on available social services in the community /legal help / business opportunities....”

— community member



FUN & INNOVATIVE COLLECTIONS AT SPL

- *Board Game Collection, based at Central Library*
- *Cake Pan Library, located at the Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven and Rio Linda libraries*
- *Library of Things, based at the Arcade, Fair Oaks, Valley Hi-North Laguna, and Walnut Grove libraries*
- *Seed Libraries, available at the Arcade, Colonial Heights, Nonie Wetzel Courtland, Galt-Marian O. Lawrence, Isleton, North Sacramento-Hagginwood, Orangevale, Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven, Rio Linda, Southgate, and Walnut Grove libraries.*

COMMUNITIES WANT BOOKS AND MORE

Two of libraries' superpowers are sharing beneficial items and information and maximizing the impact of shared resources. Libraries like SPL have recognized that those superpowers can be extended beyond books and e-books, newspapers and magazines, CDs and DVDs – to things like technology, software programs, museum and California State Parks passes, board games, tools, equipment, sewing machines, cake pans, musical instruments, and even seeds! These items and more can be checked out at various SPL locations, requested through the catalog, or, in the case of seeds, no library card required.

The community response has been enthusiastic – as one staff member shared, “People are thrilled that we have the Library of Things” – and 40% percent of community engagement respondents would like more access to borrowing technology and things through SPL at more SPL locations.

Specific suggestions from the community and staff include:

- More laptops and internet hotspots
- More sewing machines
- More tools, including more gardening and yard maintenance tools or machinery for home use or neighborhood clean-ups
- Older technology like a zip drive or disc reader
- Spaces to grow plants at SPL locations, in community garden plots or containers, and
- People, to get to know them and their experiences



The Valley Hi-North Laguna Library features an appealing, enclosed, multi-use teen space that is supportive of active, social teen library users.

COMMUNITIES WANT MORE PLACES TO BE ALONE AND TOGETHER

The library is an essential space to many people and communities in Sacramento County and is uniquely free-of-cost to use. While SPL facilities are appreciated for the many needs they currently meet, Sacramentans would like them to expand their capacity for service. When asked what they and their community need for a stronger future, two thirds of community survey participants said more places to participate in fun and learning-focused programs and events; half said more places to read, work, and study and to gather as a community; and 20% said more places to hang out and to study and work in pairs or groups.

SPL staff's experience and observations complement the community survey responses: they highlighted needs for more space for group events, more space for teens, more spaces for quiet study and tutoring, and more comfortable places in the library for patrons to sit, read, and hang out.

The breadth of important and treasured functions that SPL locations serve demonstrates the Library's success in being its communities' essential resource and, at the same time, presents a challenge. Children, teen, and adult library users create different levels of noise and have different noise environment expectations; and, among adult patrons, noise and privacy needs vary between those coming in to read, use a computer, participate in a web meeting or job interview, or collaborate on a group project. As one SPL staff member said, "The community wants the library to both be a quiet, private space for work/

*"Libraries can become community centers again. They can have multiple community rooms for both *impromptu* and scheduled sessions - learning, collaborating, hanging out, formal talks, community outreach."*

— community member

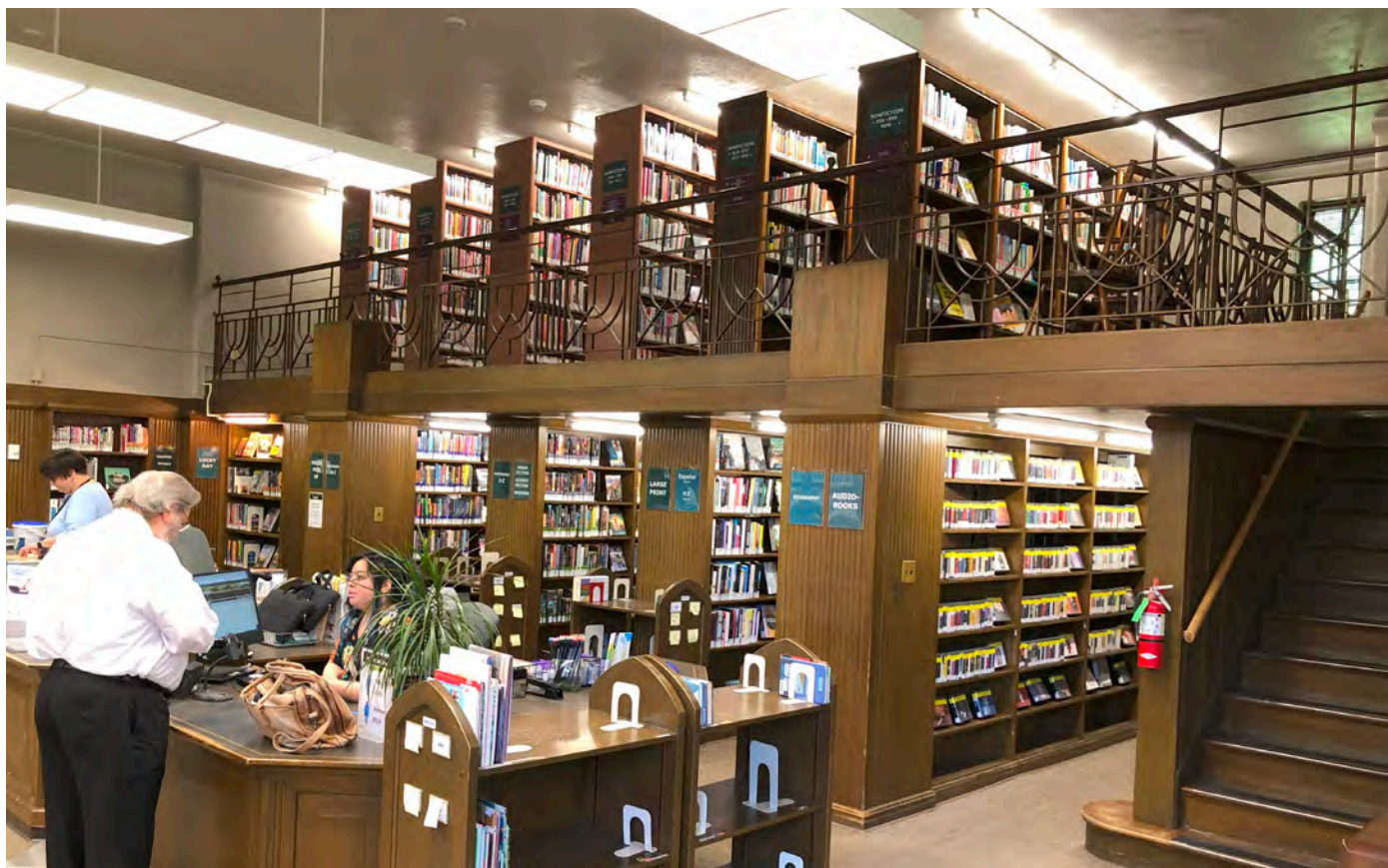


The draft floor plan for the new Elk Grove (East) Library incorporates large and flexible spaces for many library users and activities.

“I want to go to my library as a community space, where rooms are available for people to gather for different purposes.”
 — community member

study but also a place to play, talk, and collaborate.” Various types of acoustic separation for spaces of action and interaction within a library can be incorporated to minimize and mitigate noise conflicts.

The new Elk Grove (East) Library, as an example, is being designed to effectively support a diversity of community-desired uses and functional noise levels. The preliminary layout features broad use areas – Main Room/Marketplace, Adult, Teen, and Children – that incorporate spaces for user activities in a range of noise environments. The Main Room/Marketplace and Adult areas will provide a mix of small tables for studying and working alone and larger tables for groups. Four group/quiet study rooms will also be available to patrons – two in the Adult area and two in the Teen area. The Teen and Children’s areas will be partially enclosed, with partitions and smaller rooms defining the spaces and providing acoustic separation. The library will also feature a large meeting room for programming and events, with sliding glass doors that open to allow informal use by patrons when not programmed, and an innovation lab space.



McKinley Library

COMMUNITIES DESERVE ACCESSIBLE, INCLUSIVE, AND WELL-MAINTAINED LIBRARIES

As integral public facilities providing important services to diverse Sacramento County communities, SPL libraries should be accessible to all community members regardless of abilities; inclusive of and responsive to all library users; and well-maintained to eliminate safety, usability, and appearance shortcomings.

COMMUNITIES DESERVE ACCESSIBLE LIBRARIES

Community members should be able to easily access the libraries within the SPL network, as well as access all the materials, amenities, and spaces within each library. Accessible facilities and spaces seek to eliminate barriers to use for customers of different abilities and mobilities. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) established national guidelines for accessible design in 1990, as well as guarantees that people with disabilities have the same opportunities as everyone else to participate in state and local government programs. Although ADA accessible design guidelines are not a true building code, compliance is required for buildings in California.

Library facilities built before the ADA was enacted were not designed to current standards of accessibility. Needs for structural accessibility improvements have been noted in nearly one-third of SPL facilities. The oldest SPL facilities, in particular the Ella K. McClatchy and McKinley Libraries, have site and structural features that render portions of the libraries inaccessible to patrons with disabilities. Internal library furnishings and their use can also disadvantage people with disabilities. For example, older, tall service desks, tall bookshelves and displays, and bookshelves with books placed on the highest and lowest shelves can hinder disabled patron self-sufficiency.

Service-related accessibility strategies are also an important element of accessible libraries. Examples of accessibility strategies include assistive technologies for



Multilingual signs would improve accessibility and wayfinding for non-English-speaking SPL customers.

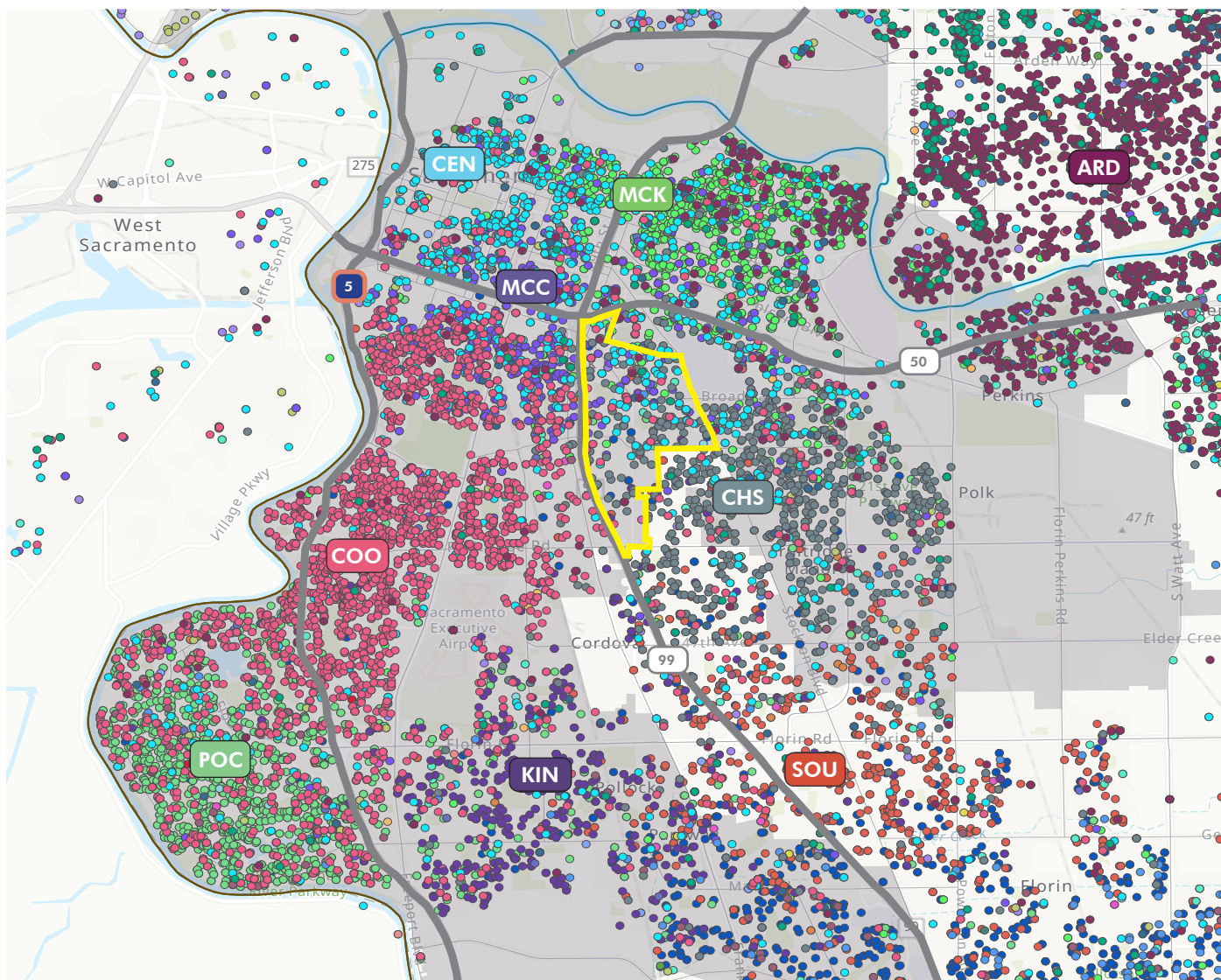
customers with vision and hearing impairments, and multilingual and pictorial signage for non-English-speaking visitors and low-literacy customers. While SPL staff shared that the Library does utilize these strategies, they noted that more and more widespread use of these tools, along with more staff training, would better support disabled and disadvantaged patrons.



Tall bookshelves limit patrons' ability to access materials. In this instance, books have been removed from the top, difficult-to-reach shelf.

Access to library locations can be complicated for patrons without access to a private vehicle, a circumstance that can be more common in lower income communities and among seniors and people with disabilities. Staff survey participants identified the Isleton, Courtland, and Rio Linda locations in particular as being somewhat to very difficult to access by public transit. Libraries on well-located sites that are easily and safely accessible by transit, cycling, and walking as well as by private vehicle can serve more patrons. For those locations not anticipated to need relocation but that are not near an existing transit stop or route, SPL staff suggests working with local government planners and transit agencies to pursue improved transit access.

Some community engagement participants also expressed the sense that their communities are not well-served by SPL's existing network of facilities. In particular, residents of the Oak Park community in the City of Sacramento and the Vineyard/Vintage area of the County shared that they feel underserved by SPL's existing library locations.



LIBRARY SERVICES IN OAK PARK

Throughout the community engagement activities for this plan, residents of the Oak Park neighborhood in the City of Sacramento (outlined in yellow above) have shared their frustrations about the lack of a library in their community for the last 30+ years. These include a sense that their community is underserved by the current SPL network of libraries and in high need, and that the lack of an easily accessible library is an equity issue. Oak Park community residents are predominantly people of color and much of the neighborhood is considered to be low resource, with portions experiencing high segregation and poverty.¹ There is community interest in restoring some kind of access to library services in this neighborhood.

Oak Park used to have a library, which was built in 1930 at the intersection of 35th Street and 5th Avenue. In 1989, it was closed as part of a plan to consolidate three area library locations - Oak Park, Fruitridge, and Mabel Gillis - into the new Colonial Heights Library (shown on the map above as "CHS"). Community members are still sensitive about the decision to close the Oak Park Library and move library services two miles to the southeast. Other nearby SPL locations, Ella K. McClatchy ("MCC") and McKinley ("MCK"), are 1.3 to 2 miles distant and separated from Oak Park by Highways 50 and 99.

While Oak Park residents do make use of the libraries in surrounding communities, as shown by the color-coded location visit dots within the community boundaries on the map above, resources like access to a car or public transit affect residents' ability to reach these libraries. Also, as discussed in Chapters 5 and 6, surrounding SPL locations are among the system's busiest and space-challenged to provide modern library services.

¹Source: California Tax Credit Allocation Committee/Housing and Community Development 2023 Opportunity Maps



Arden-Dimick Library teen space

“I think that in a large, diverse city like the Sacramento metro area, our library can do even more to promote literacy & information. Making our libraries more accessible for people with disabilities (and reaching out to connect with those people and their support people/families/friends/caregivers); creating safe spaces and providing resources for LGBTQIA+ community, especially youth; and ensuring that the folks of our ethnically and linguistically diverse city feel welcome at the SPL.”

— community member

COMMUNITIES DESERVE INCLUSIVE LIBRARIES

Removing barriers to access for people with physical disabilities is one aspect of creating libraries that are inclusive. Inclusive libraries seek to provide visitors of every age, ethnicity, gender, and ability with a welcoming experience and space that accommodates their needs, preferences, and priorities. They reflect and celebrate the diverse cultures and unique characteristics of the communities they serve.

To name just a few, examples of inclusive library design characteristics include:

- Intuitive wayfinding and signage that are easily understood by people who don't speak or read English well;
- Attractive and comfortable spaces for social gathering where people feel they can talk without disturbing others around them;
- Quiet spaces where customers can find relief from sensory overload; and
- Spacious, comfortable places where customers can accomplish diverse goals during their visit – whether focusing on work, socializing with friends, or curling up with a book.

Community survey respondents noted that “one size fits all” library locations lose something of their community connection and attraction for patrons. Enabling branches to tailor their



Courtland Library, one of SPL's locations in small delta communities.

programs and resources for the specific needs and interests of the communities they serve creates library environments where people feel at home and excited by the possibilities. Engaging the community in the design process for library renovations and new construction is also important for creating library spaces where people feel like they belong.

Another characteristic of an inclusive library is having an adequate size to support the needs and interests of its community. A small library can squeeze a teen zone or Community Language section into a small or underutilized space, for example, but users will sense if the space is not a good fit and use will likely be underwhelming. A library that doesn't have adequate or appropriately noise-separated spaces for some user groups will often draw fewer potential customers.

For example, in Ella K. McClatchy Library, one of SPL's smallest locations (2,600 square feet), no space is available for teen use in the library's maze of small rooms so very few teens visit – even though it's the closest library to two high schools (Sacramento High School and C.K. McClatchy High School). Libraries in the urban and suburban areas of Sacramento County can rely on other nearby branches to help meet patron demand by providing complementary spaces and services. However, residents in the County's small, rural communities often have only one option for library service.

"All three delta libraries are integral to life in these small towns. It is difficult to impossible for some residents to go to a library in a different town, so it's important to these communities to have a fully functional local branch that serves the community's needs."

— SPL staff member



The Fair Oaks Library, built in 1976, shows its age in its interior spaces.

“Our lighting fixtures [at Fair Oaks Library] are out of date: they are expensive to maintain, fail to provide proper illumination, use significantly more electricity than their LED counterparts, run hot and contribute to our HVAC difficulties, and are aesthetically burdensome.”

— SPL staff member

“Sacramento libraries are outdated.”

— community member

COMMUNITIES DESERVE WELL-MAINTAINED FACILITIES

The condition of libraries, integral parts of the community that they are, has an impact on how people feel about their value and their community’s value. Providing welcoming, attractive, and comfortable library facilities is a partnership between JPA member jurisdictions and SPL. The routine and capital maintenance of the SPL library buildings and their grounds are the responsibility of the jurisdictions that own the facilities; and the maintenance of library furnishings and equipment and regular cleaning services are the responsibility of SPL.

The staff survey for this process asked staff to provide their experienced perspectives on the current state of SPL facilities’ external and internal upkeep and function. While most SPL facilities were judged to be working fairly well in most aspects, shortcomings identified included:

- **Poorly maintained:** Ella K. McClatchy, Isleton, North Sacramento-Hagginwood, Belle Cooleedge, and Central
- **Outdated:** Central, Belle Cooleedge, Isleton, Martin Luther King, Jr., McClatchy, McKinley, North Sacramento, Courtland, Fair Oaks, and South Natomas
- **Uncomfortable during warm or cool weather:** McKinley, Martin Luther King, Jr., Fair Oaks, Walnut Grove, Southgate, and Franklin
- **Unpleasant, uncomfortable, and/or unattractive:** Central, Fair Oaks, Belle Cooleedge, Martin Luther King, Jr., Courtland, and McKinley

Improvements in the structural and site maintenance backlog, ongoing maintenance, and internal furnishings of the libraries would make an incredibly positive impact on library attendance and community pride. Grants recently received from the California State Library’s Building Forward Program for the Arden-Dimick, Belle Cooleedge, Carmichael, Central, Del Paso Heights, Fair Oaks, Martin Luther King, Jr., North Highlands-Antelope, Southgate, Sylvan Oaks, and Walnut Grove Libraries will make a substantial impact on the maintenance needs and longevity of these facilities.



4. LIBRARY FACILITIES VISION



Robbie Waters Pocket-
Greenhaven Library

21ST CENTURY LIBRARY FACILITIES VISION

The Sacramento County community's enthusiasm for SPL and its services couldn't be plainer, nor could the community's desire for even more impactful and supportive library services and spaces. To continue to improve its ability to be the essential resource to its communities and expand its positive impact to more Sacramentans, SPL will need to provide agile services and spaces within appealing facilities. Libraries with the combination of these characteristics, agile and appealing, are the vision for a thriving, 21st-century-responsive SPL.

AGILE SERVICES AND SPACES

The 21st century has been full of change so far; and SPL leadership and staff are justly proud of their organization's initiative and flexibility in responding to changing community needs, library trends, and technology. The Library's agility and innovative spirit were particularly evident during the COVID-19 library closures, when its staff quickly pivoted to new service delivery methods including online programming and curbside materials pickup so they could continue to support Sacramentans during an unprecedented crisis. A few inflexible SPL facilities couldn't adapt to needs for increased ventilation and social distancing, however, and had to remain closed for long periods – limiting library services to their communities.

SPL needs facilities that will allow the Library to be agile in response to changing community needs – introducing novel programs and technologies, shifting services and service models, and adapting and rearranging spaces. Diverse Sacramento County will continue to want a variety of library services and spaces from SPL. And, as the 21st century continues, technologies, demographics, social trends, educational needs, and job opportunities will keep evolving. Library facilities that are appropriately sized to support multiple library activities in addition to providing access to library materials will be better able to adapt over time and will stay relevant for longer.



Rio Linda Library

Community library facilities that provide a full range of modern library spaces, services, and technology are a sweet spot for SPL, making up about half of SPL's current facilities and many of its best-performing spaces. Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library is an example of a community library facility that, according to SPL staff, has an ideal range and layout of spaces.

Hub library facilities, which are larger spaces that serve as community libraries as well as host larger materials collections and regional library service support functions, are also a great facility model for agile operations – as well as being workhorse facilities that support a well-functioning library network. The North Natomas and Valley Hi-North Laguna libraries are examples of larger hub library facilities that do a great job of supporting high numbers of visits and checkouts, larger collections, and the full range of modern library spaces.

Agile library buildings, in addition to being adaptable, are efficient – they can meet different needs at different times of the day and over the years, addressing a multitude of needs within a fixed amount of space. For example, a program space that supports children's activities and storytimes during the day can also serve as a public meeting space in the evenings; and a teen space with computers and noise separation from adjacent library spaces, like the Rio Linda Library teen space shown in the photo above, could be used for small-group computer skills instruction for seniors or other activities during school hours.

While smaller, rural communities may not have the populations or local revenues to support community-sized library facilities, they can provide library facilities with focused service models and innovative service strategies to provide the library services that are essential to their residents. Continuing and expanding partnerships with other community-serving agencies and exploring creative and innovative methods to deliver key services can expand the flexibility and service capacity of SPL locations of all sizes. In the longer term, opportunities for facility expansion can be considered.



APPEALING FACILITIES

To attract, support, and inspire visitors, SPL's facilities should be appealing. Well-located and welcoming buildings with lots of natural light, comfortable furniture, and clear wayfinding, that are usable at various ability levels, create positive impressions and experiences that motivate residents to use the library. Responses to the community survey show that, in addition to having books and friendly staff, the residents expect SPL locations to have attractive, pleasant, functional, and safe interior and exterior spaces. As one respondent said, "Libraries have changed over the years. Our spaces need to be bright, colorful, comfortable, and inviting."

SPL is committed to providing Sacramento communities with welcoming community spaces. All Library facilities should be accessible, so that they truly serve all community residents. Barriers should be removed from existing facilities, and new and remodeled libraries should be carefully designed with input from disabled patrons to best facilitate their use of library spaces and services. Facilities should also seek to be inclusive, to provide visitors of every age, ethnicity, gender, and ability with a welcoming and affirming space that accommodates their needs and preferences.

Libraries in the SPL network should also offer comfort and character. Interior temperatures should be appropriate to the season, with building design and mechanical systems that are effective and efficient. Furniture should be comfortable, flexible, and plentiful, allowing patrons to make best use of the library. Attractive architecture and lively, colorful interior design and furnishings that reflect each facility's community add to a sense of community pride, ownership, and belonging. Beautiful facility grounds with usable library spaces and/or library sites near parks are icing on the library cake.

A sense of safety at the library is also important for patrons and staff. SPL libraries are appreciated for being safe spaces for Sacramento County residents of all backgrounds, and also encounter a spectrum of staff oversight and community safety challenges. Library facilities can foster a sense of safety with good building and site design, plentiful exterior and interior lighting, good maintenance and cleaning, appropriate security and monitoring features, and well-trained and supported staff. Facility-based safety measures can be supplemented with outreach to and supportive services for Sacramentans in need of assistance in partnership with local social service providers.



FACILITY ASSESSMENTS

Group 4's facilities assessment for SPL reflects on the library facilities and service models throughout SPL's 28-location network, including those assessed in detail in the 2021 County of Sacramento *Library Facilities Master Plan*. Library facilities were evaluated on whether and how they support SPL's facilities vision, including how they function for patrons, staff, and the SPL system and their physical conditions. Highlights of the network-wide assessment findings are provided here, followed by detailed assessments for the 16 facilities provided by JPA member cities in Chapter 6.

SOME LIBRARY FACILITIES SUPPORT THE VISION

Many of the buildings in SPL's fleet of facilities are relatively successful at supporting the Library's facilities vision of Agile Services and Spaces and Appealing Facilities. This includes facilities of a range of sizes with sites, floor plans, and architectural and interior design that support customer use patterns and staff operations. While full-service community libraries are the most effective and efficient facility model for many urban and suburban Sacramento County communities and hub libraries are scaled up to support multiple communities, even small facilities can be good libraries with the right focus and support. Gaps or shortcomings in these facilities that hinder effective, modern library service can largely be addressed through capital maintenance and strategic upgrades.

SPL facilities that have shown themselves to be good models include:

- North Natomas Library (photo above), which appeals to patrons with its airy architecture, bright and attractive interior, diversity of library spaces, and convenient location. Co-located with a public high school and a community college campus, the 22,700 SF library serves large numbers of students as well as adults and kids. The large and multi-function facility has a large and welcoming central space with an expansive collection of materials as well as computers, seating, and a children's area. Around the central space are enclosed spaces for quiet reading, study, teens, computer use, student and career assistance, and programs and community meetings.



Carmichael Library

"My 8 year old started asking if/when he's old enough to start hanging out in the cool 1950s styled teen space yet at Carmichael Library and is super excited to see tablets to check out. It's great he's looking forward to future use."

— community member

"[Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library is a] Clean safe place to gather, check out books and resources, and enjoy events with ample free parking."

— community member



Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library

- Carmichael Library is a collections and service workhorse: it handles a high number of annual visitors and attendees to its programs, houses the second-largest materials collection (after Central Library), and lends the most materials. The 20,700 SF facility features an open and bright main reading room with a barrel-vaulted ceiling, an appealing children's area, and well-situated stacks and seating that support good flow patrons and activities. The floor plan also features a semi-enclosed teen space and a heavily used community room.
- Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library, co-located with a public middle/high school, features a colorful exterior and interior and a great balance between quiet and loud spaces that make it attractive for a wide range of users. The facility's 15,000 SF layout provides ample spaces children and teens from nearby schools, enclosed spaces for collaboration and quiet reading, and a meeting room that is heavily used for programs and group meetings; all of which are well laid out for staff oversight and operations.
- Orangevale Library is a great example of a small community library that supports a full range of library services. Located in a shopping center near several schools and parks, the library is accessible by car, walking, biking, and public transit. The 8,000 SF space's two window-filled façades let ample natural light into the main room, which features materials shelving, comfortable seating, reading/work tables, and a large children's area. The library also includes semi-enclosed computer lab and teen areas, two study rooms, a community room with a kitchenette area, and a workroom for the Friends of the Sacramento Public Library.

Other SPL libraries support the facilities vision as well. Valley Hi-North Laguna Library is a well-designed, well-functioning, modern hub library, and two additional modern facilities are in the planning stages: the new Elk Grove (East) and North Sacramento-Hagginwood libraries.

While construction funding still needs to be indentified to make it a reality, the planned new North Sacramento-Hagginwood is already generating community excitement. The facility will be a flexible and attractive hub library to serve the library needs of underserved North Sacramento. The draft schematic design for the transformation of the 18,000 SF former Sacramento News & Review building includes spacious adult, children's and teen spaces with appropriate noise separation; multiple study and meeting rooms; a community room; a multi-activity maker space; a Friends of the Sacramento Public Library workroom; and work and office areas for local and mobile library services operations.

The new Elk Grove (East) Library's draft design includes a similar range of modern library spaces, and is described in detail on page 24.

SOME FACILITIES FALL SHORT

Several SPL facilities are less successful at supporting full, effective, modern library services for their communities. Shortcomings in the facilities vary depending on community needs and use patterns and facility characteristics; the most common are size, condition, floor plan, interior design, or a combination of these factors. Bigger intervention would be needed to align them with SPL's facilities vision so that they can better meet the breadth and depth of the community's needs for library services, programs, and resources.

Examples of facilities that struggle include:

- McKinley Library, built in 1936, has classic charm but can't meet its community's high materials, computer access, and programs demand. Its space within the Clunie Community Center building is small (4,700 SF) and consists primarily of single main room, which includes a mezzanine housing a portion of its materials collection that is inaccessible to patrons with disabilities. The library needs renovation, at the least, to address service and operations issues. Relocation of the library to another site within McKinley Park that can accommodate a facility size of at least 12,000 SF would support expanded service to better meet the community's needs.
- Galt – Marian O. Lawrence Library, 4,300 SF in size, consists primarily of a single main room with a small staff workspace. Currently the library has to focus on providing library materials, computer access, and a few programs, all in the main room. An "easy win" that would allow Galt Library to provide full services is the addition of a meeting room. The City of Galt has developed a design for a 2,500 SF facility expansion that would provide a meeting space for community and library programs, accessible after hours when needed, and a flexible 300 SF kids area, restrooms, and storage areas. Construction funding for the expansion has yet to be identified.
- Franklin Library in western Elk Grove is unique in the SPL system as a joint public library-school library model. However, its model isn't working as successfully as hoped: school and public demand for the library's spaces and services are both high, the library's structure and layout have shown many shortcomings in supporting the high demand, and the school security protocols that public visitors need to follow reportedly feel discouraging to adult library users. Colocation of public libraries on school sites, such as North Natomas Library or Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library, appears to be a more successful model for SPL. Construction of a new Elk Grove West library at the District56 site would allow the Franklin Library to solely serve as a school library.



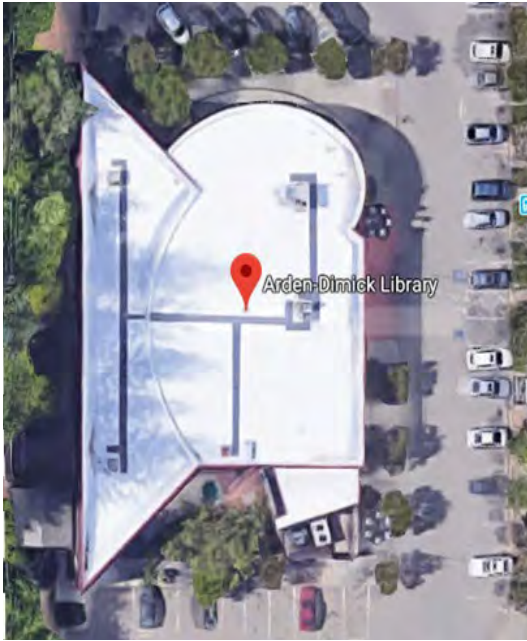
The small, cramped adult area in McKinley Library's main room is experienced as uncomfortable and outdated.



The City of Galt's conceptual design for expansion of the Galt Library facility. The expansion area is shown in grey.

"[Franklin Library would be more useful to me if it had a] Larger children's section and a children's space. It's not the best setup sharing with the school since there are often classes there as well."

— community member



The Arden-Dimick Library building features both rounded and sharply angled areas, neither of which support well-functioning and efficient library service.

- Arden-Dimick Library, built in 1970, is an oddly designed structure with curved walls and acutely angled wings which presents operational challenges and limits use flexibility. Blind spots and corners with restricted sight lines for staff have been the source of many security concerns. The program room is inconveniently shaped, preventing efficient use of the space, and the remainder of the facility is too small to provide needed space for teens, staff, and Friends of the Library. In addition, the building's electrical, plumbing, and roofing systems need upgrades. Replacing the library on its current site would be the most efficient strategy to address the community's needs and the current facility's challenges.
- Rancho Cordova Library, built in 1975, serves the rapidly growing eastern region of the county. The facility has a functional and efficient floor plan including a children's area, teen area, and popular program room. However, it lacks enough room for community needs or staff operations, the interiors are dark and lack sufficient noise attenuation, and the structure has substantial maintenance needs and ADA accessibility shortcomings. Renovation and expansion of the facility would substantially improve its service capacity, interior ambiance, and longevity.



Rancho Cordova Library

One strategy for improving service in very small facilities is to pivot to a focused service model, where space is prioritized for specific library services that provide the most benefit to the community. Del Paso Heights Library, at 5,500 SF in size, was trying to provide full library services in a facility that didn't support the operational needs of the full-service model. Looking at the community's library needs and its user base, SPL recently renovated the library's interior spaces to refocus them on serving the community's large youth population. To continue to serve other user groups in the neighborhood, a "24/7 Library" kiosk outside has been installed the Del Paso Heights Library. At the kiosk, patrons can visually browse a collection of physical books, eBooks, and audiobooks, check out these materials, and pick up holds. The kiosk is also ADA accessible to ensure services for patrons with disabilities.



CENTRAL LIBRARY AT A CROSSROADS

The Central Library in downtown Sacramento is SPL's largest public service location. Its original wing is a Carnegie library that opened in 1918. In 1991, a major renovation and six-story addition significantly expanded the Central Library. The City of Sacramento owns the building and is responsible for its maintenance.

According to California State Library statistics, Sacramento's Central Library offers a collection of about 191,000 volumes – both circulating and non-circulating – as well as more than 240 reader seats and nearly 50 computers. Special resources for the public include the Sacramento Room, which provides archives and special collections on local and California state history. The Tsakopoulos Library Galleria is a grand space used for high-interest library programs as well as civic and community events; it has also been pressed into service as a warming and cooling shelter during severe weather.

EVOLVING COMMUNITY NEEDS

At approximately 160,000 square feet, Sacramento's Central Library represents about one-third of all space in the SPL system. However, it has been experiencing changes in key user metrics over time – suggesting that it is no longer optimally aligned with the community's needs and interests.

- Foot traffic at the Central Library has been dropping over time. In fiscal year 2018-2019 – the last full year of operation pre-COVID – the Central Library was the #1 most-visited facility in the SPL system, but Belle Cooledge Library was close behind during the same time period. By the end of FY2022, Central Library's visitor count was 119,800 while Belle Cooledge Library had 106,800 visitors.
- As Sacramento communities have increased their use of digital content since 2005, circulation of SPL physical items has declined by about 50%. However, physical circulation at Central Library over that timeframe has dropped even more significantly. At the time of SPL's last master plan, Central Library was SPL's third-highest circulating location, with more than 346,000 items checked out in FY2005. By FY2019, circulation at Central had dropped by more than one-third from 2005 levels. In FY2022, Central's annual circulation had dropped by another two-thirds – lending out less than 25% of what it had in the mid-2000s – and it ranked at #14 on the list of SPL locations for circulation.



SPL's investment in the Kids Place children's area on Central Library's lower level has created one of the library's most welcoming and popular spaces.

"The community [served by Central Library] needs ease of access. The elevators break down regularly, which makes physically navigating the space difficult for some. Having the collection spread throughout multiple floors can be very confusing for patrons.

Additionally, the teen space is very hard for patrons to find. It is too far from the kids area, so that families with tweens might feel uncomfortable letting their older youth navigate the space alone.

— SPL staff member

- Central Library has seen an increase in program attendance. Between FY2005 and FY2019, participation in programs at the Central Library had nearly tripled. However, growth has been unsteady; program attendance at the Central Library in 2019 was 20% lower than in 2018 – even as many of SPL's branches saw significant growth in program participation.

CHANGING SYSTEM ROLE

In addition to providing programs, technology, and materials directly to the public, the Central Library also houses SPL systemwide resources, including administration and technical services – a role it has played since it was first built more than a century ago. SPL's 2006 Facilities Master Plan recommended that central functions related to physical collection materials – such as processing, sorting, and courier services – would benefit from moving out of the Central Library (and downtown Sacramento) and into a more suitable facility in a better location.

More than 15 years later, it is still true that the Central Library is not the ideal facility or location for these functions. This is not unique to Sacramento County; a number of SPL's urban library peers plan to move or have already moved collection-related services out of their big downtown main libraries and into facilities with better space, delivery infrastructure, and freeway access.

For example, the Cincinnati-Hamilton County Public Library purchased and converted a warehouse and distribution facility into a new, high-capacity Operations Center. The San



Diego Public Library is planning to move its technical services department out of downtown and into a new facility in central San Diego that will also provide branch services to the public.

Spaces in the Central Library have been described by customers and staff alike as “beige,” “dingy,” “outdated,” “confusing,” and “problematic.”

OVERDUE FOR MAINTENANCE

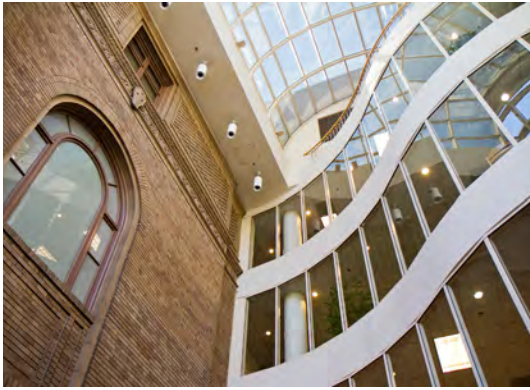
The Central Library facility is long overdue for major renovation.¹ A 2017 facility condition assessment commissioned by the City of Sacramento found that the Central Library’s roof, HVAC system, and domestic water and sanitary systems all were in need of repair or replacement. In the following years, the Central Library experienced repeated failures of key building systems resulting in major damage, closure of the library to the public, and more than \$1 million in emergency repairs.

The Central Library building expansion had already been designed and was under construction when the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was passed into law in 1990. ADA standards have evolved through the past 30+ years; by 2017, the Central Library’s ADA non-compliance was identified as being in “critical” condition in an assessment study commissioned by the City of Sacramento. The Central Library’s accessibility challenges will almost certainly be required to be addressed as part of any moderate to major renovation project.

“I like to read at the library. So for me, having an inviting environment that is comfortable, clean, quiet, with nice lighting, and actually open is my #1 priority. Central is not that. The lighting is awful, dingy, and the library is never open when I have free time.”

— community member

¹ This vision planning process relied on prior studies, available data, and anecdotal evidence to understand the general condition and maintenance outlook for SPL facilities. It did not include any new engineering analysis or technical data collection for the Central Library or other SPL locations.



The Central Library's atrium has experienced recurring water leaks.

The 2017 assessment also noted cracking in the building's lower floors and recommended follow-up analysis of the building's foundation and structural integrity. Structural and seismic codes have also evolved significantly since the Central Library was designed, and a renovation project could bring the opportunity – and potentially the requirement – to retrofit the building's structural system as well.

The costs to address the Central Library's structural and maintenance needs appear to be substantial. The facility condition assessment estimated the cost to address Central Library's deferred maintenance needs at more than \$2.2 million in 2017; this included anticipated maintenance needs during the following ten years (2018-2027) but comprises only the costs of labor and materials. It does not include accessibility upgrades, structural/seismic work, or anticipated project delivery costs (design/engineering, construction permits, etc.). The facility condition assessment states that project delivery costs alone could add 40% to 60% to labor and materials costs.

The \$2.2 million estimate also does not include any additional maintenance needs that have become needed since 2017, any anticipated future maintenance needs beyond 2027, or any modernization of the Central Library to improve it to support 21st century library service or operations. Further anticipated increases to the 2017 deferred maintenance estimate include the significant, rapid escalation of construction costs over the past few years. on top of what has already been spent in recent years for emergency repairs and replacements.

CONCLUSIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS

Renovating and updating the Central Library building to support modern, inclusive, and high-impact library service and operations will require a major capital investment. It was beyond the scope of this study to determine a recommended scope of work or budget for a comprehensive renovation to address maintenance, accessibility, seismic, and other facility condition needs as well as to reimagine library spaces to align with community needs and vision. That said, this would be a major capital project requiring a significant level of reinvestment.

In light of evolving community needs and changing system role described above, it is worth considering whether the Central Library the right facility for the long term. Systemwide services could relocate out of downtown and into a more appropriate facility – perhaps co-located with a new (or replaced) branch library. Public library programs and services for downtown communities could move into a new – and potentially smaller – space as well. Moving some or all SPL functions out of the current Central Library would give the City of Sacramento the opportunity to consider alternate uses for the site and building.

Further study is recommended to understand the amount and type of space needed for the Central Library's current functions in detail; to determine the scope and budget for reinvestment in the current building to meet the needs; and to explore potential alternatives including relocation.



5. RECOMMENDATIONS



Martin Luther King, Jr.
Library

FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

SPL facilities are the foundations for its services to residents throughout Sacramento County, and member jurisdictions have invested substantial resources in providing these facilities. During tours by the consultant team and in available facilities condition reports, SPL's locations were observed to have a range floor plans, conditions, accessibility, and needed maintenance.

Based on facility conditions and usage, the Library's facilities vision, community needs and preferences, optimal library operations, and community development trends, this facilities plan has developed recommendations for SPL facilities provided by JPA member cities. The following section is a summary of these recommendations, as well as the recommendations for County of Sacramento-provided SPL facilities found in the County's 2021 *Library Facilities Master Plan* (which is attached to this report as an appendix under separate cover), in order to reflect the full SPL facilities network.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommended strategies for SPL's facilities that would allow them to meet the Library's facilities vision fall into the following general categories:

- **Renovate/Reinvent.** Re-envision and renovate the facility to align its spaces with the facilities vision and community needs. Each building will need a different level of renovation/reinvention depending on factors such as existing layout, flexibility, and condition of building systems and infrastructure.
- **Replace.** Replace the existing facility with a building that better supports the vision for modern library service and community impact. Relocation may be recommended if a new site could provide more capacity and/or better community access.



Arcade Library

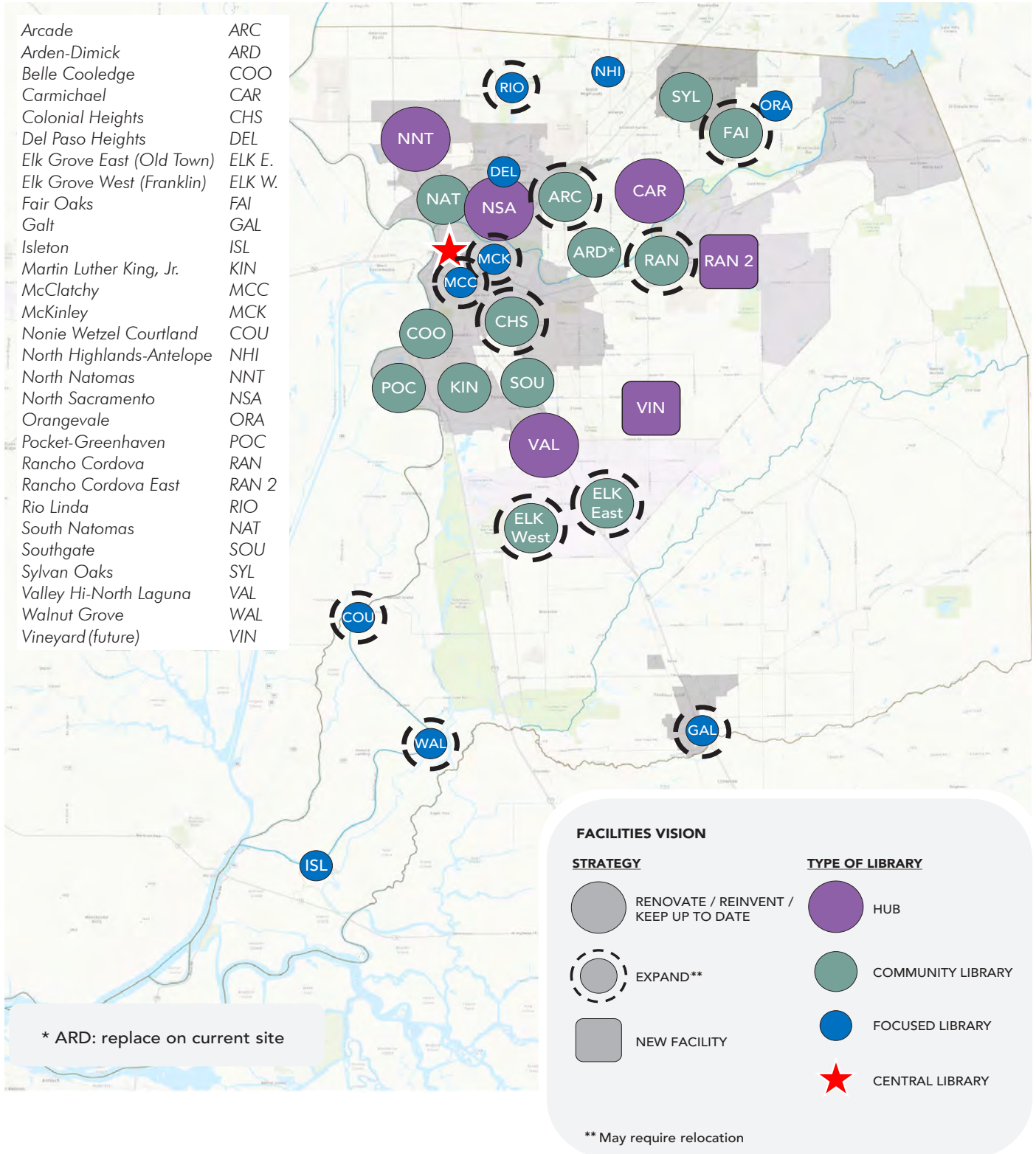
- **Refocus.** Reorganize space within the existing facility to implement a focused service model that provides the essential library services that best support the community and fit with the facility's capacity. Consider innovative service strategies to maximize the facility's service capacity.
- **Keep up to date.** For facilities that already substantially support the vision for modern library service, ongoing maintenance will keep them fresh, welcoming, and performing well over time.

For some SPL facilities, the "baseline" facility recommendation/strategy is supplemented with a potential alternative or second-phase recommendation that would allow the facility to support enhanced or expanded library service. SPL and member agencies can consider the baseline and enhanced/expanded service strategies and determine which is the best fit for each community.

These recommendations are aspirational and strategic. This planning process did not include site-specific feasibility, scoping, or design studies, nor did it evaluate potential alternate sites for recommended relocated branches. There is work ahead for SPL and its members to refine the understanding of the needs, scope of improvements, and opportunities for each facility in order to inform the budget for each recommended project.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDED FACILITY IMPROVEMENT STRATEGIES

The recommended strategies for SPL facility improvements are shown on the map below and listed in the table on the following pages. Information about the County of Sacramento's library facility assessments and recommendations can be found in its 2021 *Library Facilities Master Plan (LFMP)*, which is an appendix to this report under separate cover. The library facilities provided by other JPA members are discussed in detail in Chapter 6.



RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES FOR SACRAMENTO PUBLIC LIBRARY FACILITIES

Facility	Current State	Recommended Baseline Strategy	Consider to Enhance / Expand Service	Refer to
Arcade	Community library	Renovate		County LFMP
Arden-Dimick	Community library in poor condition	Replace on current site		County LFMP
Belle Coolegge	Community library	Renovate		Chapter 6
Carmichael	Hub library	Renovate		County LFMP
Central Library	20th century downtown library	Renovate / Reinvent	Relocate to more functional + accessible site	Chapter 6
Colonial Heights	Community library	Keep up to date	Expand to hub library; may need to relocate	Chapter 6
Del Paso Heights	Focused library	Keep up to date		Chapter 6
Elk Grove East (Old Town)	Community library in poor location	Relocate and expand to hub library Currently in design		Chapter 6
Elk Grove West (Franklin)	Not meeting community needs	Keep up to date	Relocate and expand at District56 site	Chapter 6
Ella K. McClatchy	Too small for full community service	Refocus for select services	Relocate and expand	Chapter 6
Fair Oaks	Community library	Renovate	New facility	County LFMP
Galt-Marian O. Lawrence	Small community library	Keep up to date	Expand to add program room	Chapter 6
Isleton	Very small remote library	Reinvent — special model		Chapter 6
Martin Luther King, Jr.	Community library	Renovate and reinvent Currently in design		Chapter 6
McKinley	Too small for full community service	Refocus for select services	Relocate and expand	Chapter 6
Nonie Wetzel Courtland	Very small remote library	Renovate / Refocus	Relocate	County LFMP

RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES (CONTINUED)

Facility	Current State	Recommended Baseline Strategy	Consider to Enhance / Expand Service	Refer to
North Highlands-Antelope	Community library	Renovate		County LFMP
North Natomas	Hub library	Keep up to date		Chapter 6
North Sacramento-Hagginwood	Very small library	Relocate and expand to hub library Currently in planning stage		Chapter 6
Orangevale	Small community library (leased)	Keep up to date		County LFMP
Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven	Community library	Keep up to date		Chapter 6
Rancho Cordova	Community library	Renovate	Expand into area under eaves	County LFMP
Rancho Cordova #2 (East)	N/A	New branch to serve future growth area		County LFMP
Rio Linda	Small community library (leased)	Keep up to date	Expand into adjacent lease space, if vacant	County LFMP
South Natomas	Community library	Refresh		Chapter 6
Southgate	Community library	Renovate		County LFMP
Sylvan Oaks	Community library	Renovate		County LFMP
Valley Hi-North Laguna	Hub library	Keep up to date		Chapter 6
Vineyard	N/A	New branch to serve future growth area		County LFMP
Walnut Grove	Very small remote library	Renovate and refocus	Implement alternate service delivery strategies	County LFMP



6. LIBRARY FACILITY PROFILES



- 828 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
- Built 1917 & 1991

✓	Building	160,000 SF
✓	Site Size	No need to expand
○	Condition ¹	C/B grade
✗	Location	Limits service capacity
✗	Operations	Challenging

¹ See page 82 for more information

"[Central Library's] Elevators are always breaking down.... leaks in the atrium.... needs more space for teens, easier parking that doesn't only last 30 minutes at a time...."

– SPL staff member

CENTRAL LIBRARY

The Central Library is SPL's largest public service location. The original four-story wing was constructed with Carnegie funds in 1918. In 1991, a six-story addition expanded the Central Library to approximately 160,000 square feet. The City of Sacramento owns the building and is responsible for its maintenance.

Core services at the Central Library include a collection of about 191,000 volumes, more than 240 reader seats, and nearly 50 computers. Special community resources include the Sacramento Room, which provides archives and special collections on local and California state history. The Tsakopoulos Library Galleria is a grand space used for high-interest library programs as well as civic and community events. The Central Library also houses systemwide resources including administration and technical services.

BUILDING CONDITION

Since it opened more than 30 years ago, the Central Library has been plagued by maintenance issues. SPL's 2006 Facilities Master Plan noted significant maintenance issues including "frequent malfunctioning" of building systems, the need to replace the elevators, and uneven heating, cooling, and ventilation throughout the building.

A decade later, a 2017 facility condition assessment commissioned by the City of Sacramento found that the roof, HVAC system, and domestic water and sanitary systems all were



in need of repair or replacement. The study rated the building as being in “critical” condition regarding ADA compliance. It also noted cracking in the lower floors and recommended follow-up analysis of the building’s foundation and structural integrity.

LIBRARY SERVICE AND OPERATIONS

As discussed in more detail in Chapter 4, Sacramento’s Central Library has experienced declining rates of use over the past decade or more. Annual visitor counts, circulation of collection materials, and participation in library programs at the Central Library have all been dropping – evidence that it isn’t optimally aligned with community needs and interests.

Chapter 4 also describes the changing role of the Central Library in the SPL system. SPL’s previous facilities master plan recommended moving key systemwide functions to a facility with better space for modern operations and a better location for supporting SPL branches. More than 15 years later, this recommendation is still appropriate.

RECOMMENDATION

If it is to continue to be operated by SPL, the Central Library requires major capital investment to address facility maintenance and accessibility needs as well as to realign library services with downtown Sacramento community interests and modern library operations. As an alternative, SPL could move both public services and systemwide functions out of the Central Library into a facility or facilities better suited and located.

Further study is recommended to understand the amount and type of space needed for the Central Library’s current functions in detail; to determine the scope and budget for reinvestment in the current building to meet the needs; and to explore potential alternatives including relocation.



- 5600 South Land Park Drive, Sacramento, CA 95822
- Built 1991

○	Building	12,000 SF
✓	Site Size	Generous
○	Condition ¹	B grade
✓	Location	Near community sites
○	Operations	Could be reconfigured

¹ See page 82 for more information

“Ideally, I would like the library to be renovated so we can accommodate a larger collection, especially for our community languages and high-circulating genres, as well as more computers, study rooms, and generally more ‘breathing room’ overall.”

— SPL staff member

BELLE COOLEEDGE LIBRARY

Drawing in customers from several neighborhoods south of Downtown Sacramento and beyond the Sacramento River, Belle Cooleedge Library is one of SPL’s busiest. It is also home to SPL’s mobile services with associated staff and buses housed on site. Its proximity to the interstate, schools, parks, and a community center makes it a highly accessible location.

Belle Cooleedge Library is an extremely popular location for core library services and programs, drawing the highest number of visitors after Central Library and checking out the library’s materials at high rates. The customer traffic that the library receives ensures that the seating, computers, and the community room are always in use. Family STEAM activity nights, family storytimes, and Teen Space social events are among the programs that draw patrons to the library.

The 12,000 SF library is laid out as a mirror image of the Colonial Heights Library and like that library it is colorful and welcoming, with large windows opposite the entrance that face a tree-filled lawn. It features an open layout with good sight lines, separate zones for different age groups, a “marketplace” area for browsing materials, a quiet room, and a community room. The library’s floor space is used to its current capacity to meet the needs of the community. The space has been rearranged multiple times to accommodate more seating and computers, yet the high customer use leads to tensions between different user groups over seating and noise.



Elements of the interior furnishings create challenges to better utilization and, 15 years after their installation in a 2008 remodel, the interior finishes are worn and in need of a refresh. The artistic but inefficient wavy shelving near the library entrance, laid out in a radiating design, presents challenges for patron movement and leaves pockets of floor space that are unusable.

At 30 years old, the library also needs critical structural and building systems maintenance to address safety issues. These issues include a brick and ceramic tile fascia that has been randomly falling off since 2017; a failing, leaking roof which is endangering the collection; and an end-of-life HVAC unit.

RECOMMENDATION

In Fall 2022 the California State Library awarded a \$1.2 million Building Forward grant that, combined with local funds from the City of Sacramento, will fund major repairs. An interior renovation and furnishings refresh is also recommended so that the Belle Coledge Library can continue to provide the SPL services that are so valued by the community.

Post-renovation, the library should continue to be effective well into the future with proactive maintenance and periodic interior refreshes. SPL could also consider relocating its mobile services operations to allow the library's public areas to expand within the building's existing footprint or, in the long-term, expanding the facility.



The library's layout is used to current capacity by its many appreciative customers.

"I love Belle Coledge. I wish there were more places to sit and a quiet space for reading/working."

– community member



- 4799 Stockton Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95820
- Built 1989

×	Building	12,200 SF
×	Site Size	Constrained
○	Condition ¹	B grade
✓	Location	Near parks, schools
×	Operations	Challenging

¹ See page 82 for more information

“One of the reasons I love my neighborhood is the Colonial Heights Library. Over the past year, there were consistently weeks when we visited on 3 separate days to take advantage of the early childhood programming and check out new books.”

— community member

COLONIAL HEIGHTS LIBRARY

The Colonial Heights Library is located in southeastern Sacramento near the city’s eastern boundary. This moderately sized library was built to consolidate and replace three branch libraries (Oak Park, Fruitvale, and Mabel Gillis). As a result, this location serves a larger population than most SPL locations and is very busy: it has high levels of patron visits, programs offerings and attendance, and computer use.

Colonial Heights is a great example of a library supporting its community with relevant and responsive services. Located in a community of high need, the library is heavily involved in promoting food security and food literacy. Its community room and demonstration kitchen are frequently used to host cooking classes, lunch and supper at the library, and local outreach programs such as Farm to Fork. Its rear courtyard hosts a Read & Feed community garden as well as other library programs.

The 12,200 SF library is colorful and welcoming, with a large colorful sculptural screen near its entrance and an open layout. The furnishings and walls are colorful and large windows provide pleasant views of the tree-filled courtyard. In addition to its heavily used community room, the facility provides children’s and adult reading areas, many public use computers, a teen corner with computers and tables, and two enclosed study rooms. The programming the library offers includes bilingual storytimes, learning activities for young children, youth STEAM activities, and adult coffee and conversation social events.



While the library is a hub for SPL's services in the area, the facility is too small to comfortably accommodate all the service elements it provides. The library's limited size leaves only a small nook for its big teen user population, who come from two nearby high schools, leading to conflict with other user groups over space and noise. According to SPL, computers in the library are always in use and placed very close to one another, creating discomfort among users. The demonstration kitchen has been very impactful but is inadequate to serve the community's needs. The staff work spaces are also undersized. Overall, the library is in fair condition, with the need for some façade repairs and security upgrades.

RECOMMENDATION

Expansion of the Colonial Heights library to a minimum size of 20,000 square feet would be a fantastic benefit to southeastern Sacramento communities, as demand for library services from the community is so high. A larger library could function as a hub for library access and programming and, if collocated or located near other community assets such as a park, childcare, or social services, could create synergies for providing and accessing services and experiences. With the library's current site fully utilized by the library, parking areas, and outdoor courtyard and no room to expand the site, relocation and/or land swap opportunities could be considered to create an exciting and impactful library hub.

"Our adult and teen computers are often fully in use. There is not enough seating for adults, particularly comfy chairs/couches, and large tables. Adults end up in the teen area because there are larger tables and comfy chairs."

— SPL staff member

"There's not enough shelving.... Even after we weed it is really hard for us to have a robust collection."

— SPL staff member



- 920 Grand Avenue,
Sacramento, CA 95838
- Built 1972

DEL PASO HEIGHTS LIBRARY

Del Paso Heights Library is one of the two libraries in northern Sacramento east of Steelhead Creek. It serves a community with among the highest percentiles of people of color and low-income populations in the region. The 5,400 SF building is among the smallest of the SPL locations.

Being a few blocks away from an elementary school and a high school, the library has been a safe space for children and teens who have for years been the library’s biggest user group. To focus its limited space on serving its most frequent users, the library went through a recent partial refresh and is now a youth-centric location.

In the library’s main room, the open layout and new mid-height shelves create a feeling of spaciousness. Lots of tables, colorful chairs, and a couch are available and are movable to provide flexibility for programming. The thoughtful placement of the storytime area at one end of the and teen area with computers at the other end allows different age levels to have their spaces and minimize noise conflicts.

To continue to meet adult as well as youth library needs, a new “24-Hour Library” kiosk has been installed outside the library. Patrons can visually browse the kiosk’s collection, including physical books, eBooks, and audiobooks, and pick up holds. The kiosk is also ADA accessible to ensure services for patrons with disabilities.

×	Building	5,400 SF
×	Site Size	Constrained
○	Condition ¹	B grade
✓	Location	Near community sites
✓	Operations	Recently refocused

¹ See page 82 for more information

“The community loves the [Del Paso Heights] library. The recent improvements were celebrated by the community. Access to computers and internet continues to be a big reason patrons visit the library.”

— SPL staff member



While the transition to a focused location for youth has been completed inside the building, major repairs are needed to the library's exterior and site. The building's existing roof is past its useful life and leaks, requiring replacement. The parking lot asphalt is also in poor condition, cracking and weathered, creating tripping hazards.

RECOMMENDATION

An approximately \$200,000 award from the California State Library's Building Forward grant program, announced in Fall 2022, combined with matching funds from the City of Sacramento will fund critical maintenance repairs at the Del Paso Heights Library.

With proactive maintenance and periodic refreshes to the interior as needed, the library should continue to be effective at its current size and location.



The 24-hour book kiosk at Del Paso Heights Library provides an easily accessible selection of books and materials for adult patrons.



- 8900 Elk Grove Boulevard, Elk Grove, CA 95624
- Built 2009

ELK GROVE (EAST) LIBRARY

Elk Grove (East) Library is one of two libraries serving the Elk Grove community, along with Franklin Library in western Elk Grove. One of SPL’s mid-sized branches, the library encompasses 13,900 square feet in a two-story building in Old Town Elk Grove. The library is very popular with customers for its core library services, ranking third in the SPL system for visitors and materials circulation. Elk Grove Library also supports a robust programming schedule in its community meeting room that attracts many customers. In addition to its materials collections and community meeting room, the library provides a children’s area, teen area, quiet area, and group study room.

With so much activity and demand the current Elk Grove Library’s parking area is often full, and lack of parking keeps patrons from being able to visit. The current location’s two-story structure and internal circulation, originally designed for office uses, also create use challenges for visitors and staff. These issues, among others, led the City of Elk Grove to acquire a new home for the library in 2021. The new location, a former Rite Aid Pharmacy building at 9260 Elk Grove Boulevard, is one mile east of the current site, single-story, and 17,300 square feet in size and offers more than twice as much parking. This exciting new opportunity has the potential to create a fun and dynamic 21st century library space for Elk Grove.

○	Building	13,900 SF
×	Site Size	Constrained
○	Condition ¹	B grade
✓	Location	Near community sites
×	Operations	Challenging

¹ See page 82 for more information

“[If I could change anything about the Elk Grove Library, it would be the] Parking lot primarily and only have one floor to the building instead of two. Looking forward to the new location....”
 — SPL staff member



RECOMMENDATION

The new Elk Grove (East) Library is anticipated to be completed and opened in 2026. Design work for the new library, which is incorporating input gathered from community members, is currently underway. The emerging library design fulfills the community's library wish list with a large meeting room with a patio; separate teen and adult spaces; a larger children's area with a children's discovery space, an outdoor patio, and a family restroom; an incubator space; a large central room with computer stations, study desks, and comfortable seating; a Friends of the Library bookstore and workroom; and passport services space. Library staff will be supported with ample work space including a workroom with an automated materials sorting machine.

After relocation to its new space, the Elk Grove (East) Library should continue to be effective at its size and location with proactive maintenance and periodic refreshes to the interior as needed.



This rendering of the draft design of the new Elk Grove (East) Library envisions what its varied interior spaces could look like.



- 10055 Franklin High Road, Elk Grove, CA 95757
- Built 2002

ELK GROVE WEST / FRANKLIN LIBRARY

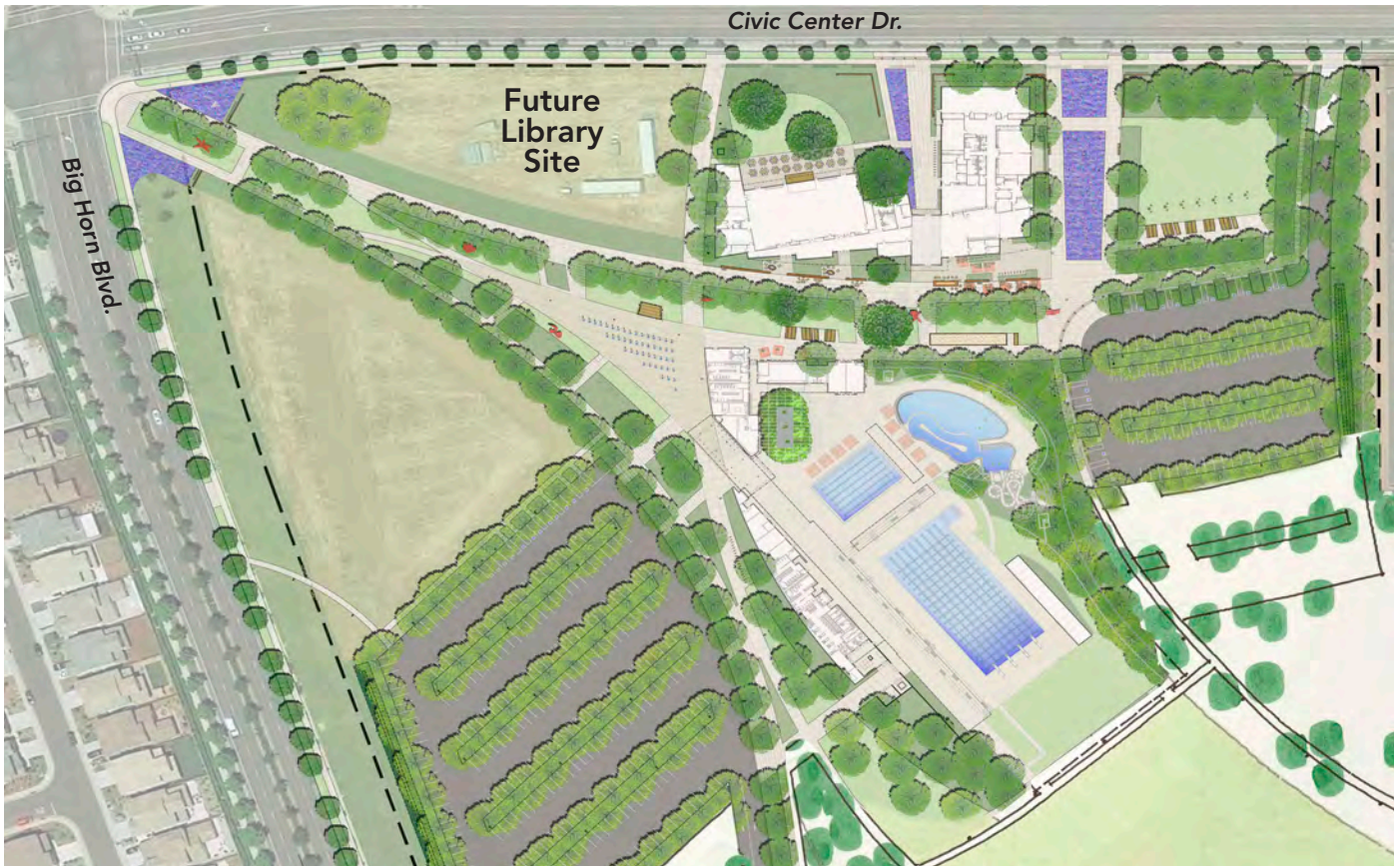
○	Building	19,600 SF
×	Site Size	Little room to expand
○	Condition ¹	B grade
✓	Location	School co-location
×	Operations	Challenging

¹ See page 82 for more information

“Would love to have a separate library — Franklin isn’t focused on the community.”
 — community member

Franklin Library is located in southwest Elk Grove and predominantly serves residents west of Highway 99. One of SPL’s largest libraries at 19,600 square feet, it is a joint-use facility that functions as a school library and a public library. The library building is located on the campus of Franklin High and Toby Johnson Middle Schools and a portion of the Franklin High School parking lot is set aside for library patrons. The western Elk Grove community loves having a library. The library provides a safe place for a diverse community that has undergone tremendous change and growth, with residents experiencing disconnection, insecurity, and inequities.

The library’s layout features an open main library area, two technology lab areas, and children’s and teen corners; a meeting room; a computer room; and staff spaces including a textbook storage room. While the school and community both benefit from Franklin Library, the joint-use model and building design are not ideal for either user group and the library is not living up to its potential. Though large, the library has insufficient space to support the current use model in which many spaces are used for school classes and programs. As a result, SPL programming is very limited during school hours. The library spaces serving school uses include the two unenclosed technology labs, which are used for computer classes. When the classes are in session the noise can be distracting to other patrons. Public library patrons also report feeling uncomfortable using the library and having to sign in during school hours.



The City of Elk Grove has reserved a prime corner site of its District56 campus for a new library, next to the new community center and aquatics center.

The library's design heightens its use challenges. The open floor plan allows sound to travel throughout the space, creating acoustical issues especially during after-school hours. The central reading area is particularly problematic as sound reflects off the hard ceiling surfaces in the double-height space. The library provides no group study rooms for quiet work/study. The main room's spaces lack separation, branding, and a sense of place, including the children's and teen areas, and as a result are underwhelming and virtually indiscernible. Also, the facility's large floor plate limits natural daylighting in the central reading area, meeting room, and staff area.

At 20 years old, many of the facility's interior finishes are showing wear and tear from frequent use. The furnishings tend toward small tables and reading chairs, with too little collaborative work furniture. Outside, the parking lot layout and size are adequate but patrons encounter traffic congestion at school pick-up times. The library entry is a relatively far distance from the parking lot, which is an accessibility challenge.

RECOMMENDATION

The District56 campus master plan includes a prominent site for a new library at the corner of Civic Center Drive and Big Horn Boulevard, adjacent to the new community center and aquatics facility. A new hub library at this site will enable the Franklin Library to evolve to serve solely as a school library.

"We mostly serve teens and young families [at Franklin Library], so we are balancing a lot of different – and sometimes maybe opposing – community needs and desires. My wish would be for a building that balances serving those varied needs as well and as thoughtfully as possible."

— SPL staff member



- 2112 22nd Street, Sacramento, CA 95818
- Built 1910

x	Building	2,600 SF
x	Site Size	Constrained
x	Condition ¹	C grade
o	Location	Access barriers
x	Operations	Challenging

¹ See page 82 for more information

“The [McClatchy Library] building needs constant maintenance.”
 — SPL staff member

ELLA K. McCLATCHY LIBRARY

The McClatchy Library was originally built as a residence in the early 20th century and was later donated to the City of Sacramento by the McClatchy family to serve as a children’s library. The 2,600 square foot, three-story building is situated on a steeply sloped lot in a quiet residential area in Midtown Sacramento. According to a 2019 customer access analysis, this location draws most of its customers from within a radius of about a mile, although Routes 80 and 99 are significant barriers to access for residents of nearby Marina Vista, Land Park, Curtis Park, and Oak Park. Many residents in these neighborhoods use busy Belle Coolidge Library instead.

McClatchy Library offers a stately exterior and home-like interior, filled with antique furniture and art. Like other homes of its era, its interior is divided into small rooms – many of which were never intended to be used by anyone but the family. Bookshelves line most of the walls in the first floor, including the adult and children’s spaces. The library’s second floor features a technology-free quiet reading room with a fireplace. The third floor is off-limits to the public. The original kitchen and servants’ areas are used for staff office and work spaces. A small courtyard at the rear is used as a children’s play area.

As one of SPL’s smallest and oldest buildings, the McClatchy Library tries – largely unsuccessfully – to function as a full-service library. The library had to remain closed throughout the COVID-19 pandemic due to inadequate ventilation for safe use

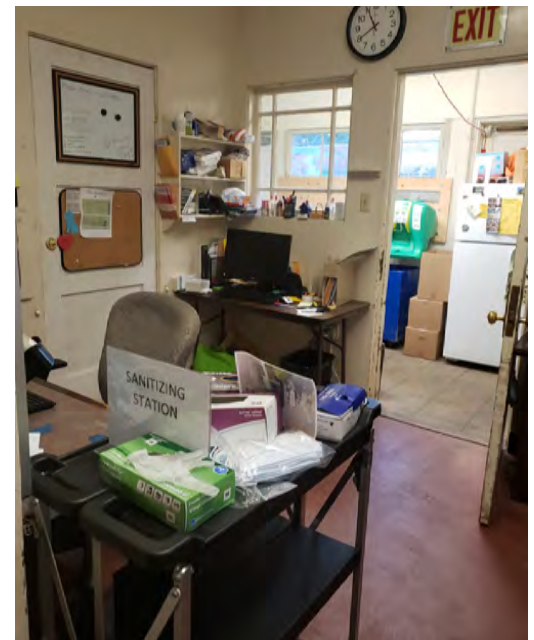


by library patrons and staff. Its reopening to the public after COVID restrictions were lifted was further delayed due to the need to install an air intake system to bring the building into compliance with requirements for operating as a public space.

The building is in poor condition at over 110 years in age, with leaking roofs and outdated electrical wiring being some of the most immediate concerns. The building's low ceilings, tall shelves, and labyrinthine layout make for a challenging customer experience. On the first floor, there is only a single restroom and staff work areas are cramped. Considerable investment has been made in accessibility upgrades at the McClatchy Library, but patrons with mobility challenges still can only enter the building through the rear courtyard via the adjacent alley.

RECOMMENDATION

In the long term, a larger and more appropriately designed facility would better facilitate SPL's mission of providing full community-supporting library services in accessible, well-functioning spaces. In the meantime, the Ella K. McClatchy building could be updated to focus on the services it supports best while also addressing the structure's physical and electrical shortcomings. A focused service model would aim to provide specific, limited library services that could be adequately delivered in the existing building.



Staff work spaces at McClatchy Library are very cramped, located as they are in the former back-of-house areas of the McClatchy residence.



- 1000 Caroline Road, Galt, CA 95632
- Built 1993

○	Building	4,300 SF
✓	Site Size	Some room to expand
○	Condition ¹	B grade
✓	Location	Near community sites
○	Operations	Lacks program space

¹ See page 82 for more information

"[Galt Library is] Very well appointed, [has] lots of furniture. Could use a community room."

— SPL staff member

"A community room [at Galt Library] would be very helpful."

— community member

GALT-MARIAN O. LAWRENCE LIBRARY

The Galt-Marian O. Lawrence Library serves the city of Galt, located on the southern border of Sacramento County, and residents in the surrounding predominantly agricultural areas. The library is among SPL's smallest at 4,300 square feet in size. Its site is part of the City of Galt's civic complex, which includes its City Hall, Littleton Center events space, Chabolla Park and Community Center, Gora Aquatics Center, and the sizable Galt Market open-air market space, and is near an elementary and preschool. Its location can sometimes be a challenge, for instance during special events and the Galt Market days (Tuesdays and Wednesdays) when traffic and demand for parking in the area spike.

Though small in size, Galt Library is a hub for literacy, learning, and community. It provides highly attended programs despite lacking a community room, including storytimes, youth literacy support, and ESL coaching. The library consists of a lobby with a Friends of the Library bookstore area and restrooms; a main library room; and a staff area that includes an office, workroom, lounge, and restroom. Within the main library room are the library's stacks and computer stations, a reading area with lounge chairs, a few reading/work tables, a children's area, and a small teen corner. The library's interiors have been refreshed within the last few years and feature well-sized shelving, colorful and comfortable furniture, and warm, ceiling-mounted lighting.



RECOMMENDATION

Galt Library users would like to have a larger library and a community room that could host more events and activities. To address these needs, the City of Galt has developed a plan to expand the facility to encompass a community room, a kids room, additional restrooms, and a storage room. Funding will need to be identified in order to carry out the expansion plan. Grants such as local Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), administered by Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency, could be pursued as a potential funding source for library improvements, as Galt is within CDBG-eligible Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts. Alternatively, in the longer term, relocation of the library to a larger building could be considered.



The City of Galt’s conceptual plan to expand the Marion O. Lawrence Library to provide a community room among other amenities has not yet been funded.



- 412 Union Street, Isleton, CA 95641
- Built 1993

ISLETON LIBRARY

Located on the Isleton Elementary School campus, the Isleton Library is one of SPL’s three Delta libraries that serve rural and remote communities in southern Sacramento County. It is the smallest SPL location but provides important services and well-attended programs to its community. The library is a popular destination among the school’s students, hosts a large story time audience, and has a high number of attendees per program.

The Isleton Library is 1,700 square feet in size and shares its building with the school office. Packed with tall shelves to maximize its collection size, the library does not have a dedicated program space and has limited room to accommodate the programs and gatherings that are highly valued by Isleton residents. The ability to browse the collection is also an important service element at the Isleton Library, with each elementary school class coming in to browse once a week. SPL prides itself on raising the reading levels in Isleton by two grades since the library was established. With most of the available floor space dedicated to shelving and a few tables for computer use and reading/study, little space is available for library staff’s work. The library also has a large, fenced concrete patio at its rear with a small covered area and shade trees, which is not regularly used for library activities.

✘	Building	1,700 SF
✓	Site Size	Room to expand
○	Condition ¹	B grade
✓	Location	School co-location
○	Operations	Lacks program space

¹ See page 82 for more information

“For larger programs (more than 30 people) [at Isleton Library] we need to go outside. There’s a decent sized covered patio that is unattractive but usable. It would be an asset to have that space become more usable for us.”
 — SPL staff member



RECOMMENDATION

A special service model is recommended for Isleton Library that increases its capacity to support the library services that are most important to the local community. In small, rural Isleton, the library is an important community gathering space. It also provides important support to the school's literacy programs. Expanding the staff space would help SPL support these services. SPL and the City of Isleton can consider creative options to enhance program capacity at the current site. Such options could include maintaining the current building as collection and browsing space while increasing use of the patio for gatherings and seating by installing outdoor-suitable fixtures and/or extending the roof-covered area; locating a modular or shipping container structure in the patio area that could serve as a program space. Alternate long-term strategies for the Isleton Library would be to expand the library/school office building or build a larger library for the community utilizing cost-efficient methods such as modular construction.

Grants such as local Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), administered by Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency, could be pursued as a potential funding source for library improvements once a service model and design are determined by the library's stakeholders, as Isleton is within a CDBG-eligible Low-Moderate Income Census Tract.



The outdoor patio at the rear of Isleton Library could be improved to enhance its usability for programming.

"Furniture that is easy to fold up and move would possibly provide more space in this small branch."

— SPL staff member



- 7340 24th Street Bypass, Sacramento, CA 95822
- Built 1970

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. LIBRARY

✓	Building	15,000 SF
✓	Site Size	No need to expand
✗	Condition ¹	C grade
✓	Location	Near community sites
✗	Operations	Challenging

¹ See page 82 for more information

“The [King Library’s] layout is very spacious and allows for the collection to spread out throughout the floorplan. It allows for robust collections like the Manga and African American Special Collection.”

— SPL staff member

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Library is located in the Meadowview neighborhood of southwestern Sacramento, a predominantly BIPOC and higher-need community. The 15,000 square foot library building is located near several public schools and parks. It is a vital and welcoming community resource for information and learning, technology, and gathering.

King Library provides highly tailored and engaging library services to the community. It caters to its teen patrons with innovative programming, such as Manga Café, a weekly after-school social, and computer gaming activities. Technology programs such as after-school STEM learning activities and coding classes are popular and very well-attended. Summer lunch at King Library is one of the most popular in the SPL system. Children and teens bring school-issued devices to the library to make use of the internet access. The library’s Wi-Fi extends beyond the building into the parking lot, providing 24/7 access to this valuable service. In recent years, SPL secured grant funding to upgrade technology and add a sound recording booth, among other focused service enhancements.

The library building is well-sized but was designed for a 20th century model of library service that no longer meets community needs. Respondents to both the public survey and the staff survey reported high community interest in more space for people to study, collaborate, and participate in diverse programs: learning and skill programs, fun events, youth literacy and learning activities, job seeker support



and career development programs, and more. However, the community room is one of the smallest in the SPL system – which significantly limits its capacity for popular programs. In the main room, much of the floor area is taken up by shelving and computer stations and activity noise accumulates quickly.

After more than 50 years of service, the King Library has significant maintenance needs consistent with the building's age and high levels of use. Its building systems are reported to be outdated. For example, the electrical system cannot meet the community's need for places to plug in devices of their own or those provided by SPL; and the HVAC system provides uneven service and is appears to be at the end of its useful life.

RECOMMENDATION

In 2022, the City of Sacramento was awarded a \$5.6 million grant from the California State Library to support the substantial renovation of the King Library, including replacement of outdated building systems and accessibility upgrades. This grant plus matching City funds will also support reinvention of the library including enhanced children's and teen spaces, an expanded community room, and acoustically-designed spaces for both collaboration and quiet study.

Post-renovation, the King Library should continue to be effective at its current size well into the future with proactive maintenance and periodic refreshes to the interior.

"[The community wants] More program spaces and more private study/work spaces."

— SPL staff member

"I've gotten complaints about the fluorescent lights impacting people who have sensory issues. The AC /heater is in really uncomfortable spots."

— SPL staff member



- 601 Alhambra Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95816
- Built 1936

✘	Building	4,700 SF
✓	Site Size	McKinley Park
○	Condition ¹	B grade
✓	Location	In popular park
✘	Operations	Challenging

¹ See page 82 for more information

“At McKinley, I wish there was more space to lounge and relax to read a book. There is only one armchair here.”

— community member

MCKINLEY LIBRARY

McKinley Library is located in McKinley Park in an older, affluent east Sacramento neighborhood. The library occupies approximately 4,700 square feet in the northern end of the 1930s-era Clunie Community Center building. (The library shares the building’s entrance lobby, restrooms, and community room with the community center.) Many community survey takers report that they choose to visit McKinley for its historical charm and so they can visit McKinley Park in the same trip.

The library is also popular for its core library services. It has SPL’s highest circulation and highest visits per square foot of space. And, despite not having dedicated program space within the library, McKinley has the third highest attendance per program and ranks among the top 10 SPL libraries for total children’s program attendance.

That said, McKinley’s small size does significantly limit its ability to provide modern library service. The main reading room provides a few computers and a few tables for reading or studying, which is almost all that can be fit into the space. The children’s area has some bookshelves, table seating, and computers, but little space for programs and no acoustic separation from the main reading room. Library programming is also limited by the availability of the shared community room.

Many of the library’s original 1930s design features remain – not all of them consistent with SPL’s vision for accessible and inclusive library service. Originally, customers could not freely



access the collection; instead they would request items to be retrieved by staff from dark and narrowly-spaced closed stacks on the main floor and a mezzanine that can be reached only by a narrow staircase. These stacks have long since been opened to the public, but remain difficult to access for patrons with mobility, vision, and other challenges. Staff at the circulation desk also have the “open” stacks at their back, which causes some to be concerned about safety – but there are few options for work space elsewhere in the McKinley Library.

The limitations on service resulting from McKinley Library’s small size might be partially mediated if there were other library locations nearby to provide what McKinley cannot. However, mapping analysis conducted for the 2019 County Library Facilities Master Plan showed that East Sacramento residents are far more likely to use McKinley than any other SPL location – even Central Library, which is just two miles away.

RECOMMENDATION

In the long-term, the community would be better served by a larger facility – ideally 12,000 square feet or more – that can support a more diverse range of library programs and services. In the meantime, the McKinley Library space in the Clunie Community Center would benefit from tenant improvements to focus on selected core services, update the library service model, enhance flexibility of the space and furnishings, and upgrade electrical system capacity.

“[McKinley Library is] Not ADA accessible, [has] no library-managed meeting rooms, kitchenettes, or study rooms. Not enough space for technology, comfortable furniture, or a large enough library collection to meet the current community’s needs. Staff spaces are small and cramped, a challenge for both circulation, private/confidential meetings or phone calls, or focusing on challenging work.”

— SPL staff member



- 4660 Via Ingoglia,
Sacramento, CA 95835
- Built 2011

✓	Building	22,700 SF
✓	Site Size	No need to expand
✓	Condition ¹	A grade
✓	Location	School co-location
✓	Operations	Good user experience

¹ See page 82 for more information

"[I use North Natomas Library most often because] it has the best space/environment and also a quiet room."

— community member

"I love the architecture of the [North Natomas Library] building as well!"

— community member

NORTH NATOMAS LIBRARY

Located among the newest suburban neighborhoods in northern Sacramento, the North Natomas library is the second largest in the SPL system (after Central Library) and relatively recently built. The library is well placed for community access, being co-located with Inderkum High School and close to the Natomas Center campus of American River College. Children and teens flock to the library before and after school. It is among the busiest SPL locations, with one of the highest visitor totals each year.

North Natomas Library is a successful model for an SPL hub library. The layout of the 22,700 SF library is versatile and flexible, providing space for the many user groups that utilize different parts of the library as well as an expansive collection of materials. The library has a large and well-lit central space with stacks, computers, seating, and a children’s area. Enclosed spaces for quiet reading, study, teens, computer use, student and career assistance, and community meetings and programs open off of the central space. The recently refreshed teen space is popular for gaming and is heavily utilized. Customers who visit North Natomas Library enjoy its modern architecture, bright and clean feel, and mix of common and quiet spaces.



Overall, North Natomas Library is an appealing and well-functioning facility with spaces that can support SPL's vision of providing agile services to its community.

RECOMMENDATION

With continued proactive maintenance as well as periodic updates for library service and customer experience as needed, the North Natomas Library should continue to be effective at its current size and location. Opportunities to explore in future refresh and renovation projects include rebalancing space in the library to create more room for programming and more flexible space for teens.

"[North Natomas Library is] Big and open; well lit and comfortable seating with lots of tables and a nice teen area. Provides safe space and program options for teens at nearby high school. Allows a diverse population of kids, families, teenagers, and independent adults to visit and access needed programs, materials, and services. Supports community groups by providing rooms for study. Allows for collaboration with the high school as a site for test proctoring."

— SPL staff member



- 2109 Del Paso Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95815
- Built 1987

x	Building	4,000 SF
x	Site Size	No room to expand
x	Condition ¹	D grade
✓	Location	Near community sites
x	Operations	Challenging

¹ See page 82 for more information

“The North Sacramento-Hagginwood Library is very small. A community room would go a long way to make the library more inviting, allowing for more programming.”

— SPL staff member

NORTH SACRAMENTO-HAGGINWOOD LIBRARY

Located in “Old North” Sacramento, the North Sacramento-Hagginwood Library predominantly serves the neighborhoods between Route 160 and I-80 and east of Steelhead Creek. These neighborhoods have high percentiles of residents of color and residents that experience low incomes.

The North Sacramento-Hagginwood Library is one of the smallest SPL branches at 4,000 square feet. This location’s current space in a leased commercial storefront was closed for much of the COVID pandemic due to difficulties in providing adequate ventilation and social distancing in its small space. Since its reopening the library’s computers and internet service are again available to the community and computer usage is higher than at other, larger libraries like the North Natomas and Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven. The library also provides a haven for youth, with a children’s reading area with storytime space, weekly early learning programming, and a teen corner.



RECOMMENDATION

The City has purchased the former Sacramento News & Review Building on Del Paso Boulevard for conversion into a new North Sacramento-Hagginwood Library. Planning and funding development are underway.

The new location will be more suitably sized for the community's needs and to provide the spaces and design elements that the community has long desired. The proposed design includes spacious adult, children's and teen spaces, with better noise separation between the teen and adult areas; multiple study and meeting rooms, a conference room, and a community room; a maker space with a kitchenette; and space for the Friends of the Library.

In the new building, the North Sacramento-Hagginwood Library should continue to be effective with proactive maintenance and periodic refreshes to the interior as needed over the long term.

"[The North Sacramento-Hagginwood Library would be more useful to me if it was a] Bigger space. I'm looking forward to it moving into the old News and Review building, near the Globe light rail station, so that my library can offer more special events just like other libraries around us do."

— community member



- 7335 Gloria Drive,
Sacramento, CA 95831
- Built 2010

✓	Building	15,000 SF
✓	Site Size	No need to expand
✓	Condition ¹	A grade
✓	Location	School co-location
✓	Operations	Good user experience

¹ See page 82 for more information

"The Robbie Waters Library has a small but excellently stocked used bookstore, has helpful and friendly librarians, and 2 Study Rooms that I often reserve for tutoring my students."

— community member

ROBBIE WATERS POCKET-GREENHAVEN LIBRARY

The Robbie Water Pocket-Greenhaven Library is one of the newer libraries in the SPL system. It shares a campus with a public middle and high school, the School of Engineering and Sciences, and is busy with children and teens using the space after school hours. The library is popular with adult patrons as well. Program offerings are a big draw for community members: the location ranks third in the number of programs offered and second in the average attendance per program.

SPL feels that Pocket-Greenhaven Library is one of their most successful models of a full-service library building. The library's colorful and flexible design, diversity of spaces, and vivid signage make the location attractive for all user groups. The 15,000 SF facility provides plenty of space for children and teens and enclosed spaces for collaboration and quiet reading. The layout provides a great balance between quiet and loud spaces, accommodating the needs of a range of patrons. Staff report that the meeting room is a bit small compared to need but is still heavily used for programs and by neighborhood groups including the Boys and Girls Club and Rotary. Staff work areas are appropriate for modern library operations. Space is provided for possible installation of an automated materials handling system in the future.



According to SPL the building is in generally good condition, with some maintenance needs that are consistent with its age and level of community use over the past decade. Overall, the library is an appealing and well-functioning facility with spaces that can support SPL's vision of providing agile services to its community.

RECOMMENDATIONS

With continued proactive maintenance as well as periodic updates for library service and customer experience as needed, the Pocket-Greenhaven Library should continue to be effective at its current size and location.

"[Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library] has a mostly open layout, but various nooks and crannies create pockets where folks can study or sit together in relative privacy (our two study rooms help in this regard as well). While our adult computer area is not large, it does seem to accommodate our frequent computer users.... The teen room, while not large, is useful in the afternoons."

— SPL staff member



- 2901 Truxel Road, Sacramento, CA 95833
- Built 2001

○	Building	13,600 SF
○	Site Size	Little room to expand
○	Condition ¹	B grade
✓	Location	Within civic campus
○	Operations	Need improvement

¹ See page 82 for more information

"I would like to see more modern updates done to the [South Natomas] library. Perhaps maybe painting the walls a brighter color and new furniture. Additionally, more community events."
 — community member

SOUTH NATOMAS LIBRARY

The South Natomas Library is a twenty-two-year old, mid-sized facility in northwestern Sacramento located within a civic campus also housing a park, community center, and rose garden. Well utilized by its community, the library is popular with children, teens, and customers who attend its fun and engaging program offerings.

The 13,600-square-foot library houses a materials collection that is in line with its size in its main reading room. This space has a linear, open layout, high ceilings featuring wood paneling and hanging art, a large and cheerful children’s area, a teen corner, and good lines of sight for staff oversight. The most popular feature of the library is its community room, used for library programming as well as by community groups such as the Girl and Boy Scouts. It is often in use during library hours as well as after-hours, but is too small to accommodate some uses the community desires. One study room is also available.

The South Natomas Library has reached an age where the condition of its finishes, furniture, and shelving necessitates an interior refresh. The main reading room space is also in need of improvements to address challenges presented by the current interior design. The space is dark, with limited natural and artificial lighting, and outlets for device charging are few and inconveniently located. The library has a large number of teen users but the teen space, located in a corner of the main room, feels like a section of the stacks rather than a space



dedicated for teen reading and activities. The circulation desk is challenging to use for staff and patrons with physical limitations. Outside the building, limited wayfinding signage and confusing driveways make the library difficult to find within the civic campus.

RECOMMENDATION

A complete interior refresh is recommended for the South Natomas Library to upgrade its functionality and ambiance. The refresh can bring electrical outlets to all seating areas, update the lighting, create an enhanced and enclosed teen area, and install a more functional and accessible circulation desk. Minor expansion of the community room and the teen area could also be considered in the longer term. On the civic campus site, adding wayfinding signage to the library and relocating the book-drop to the front of the library building would improve access and vehicular circulation.

"[South Natomas Library has a] Large children's area and great early learning programs. Large collection that usually has something for whatever somebody's looking for. Open and inviting once you get inside (from the outside, people have some trouble differentiating it from the community center next door)... Has two playgrounds, a field and public park outside, as well as the South Natomas rose garden and trellis, which is beautiful. Centrally located in the community; I've even had patrons mention the proximity to and location of this library having influenced their decision to move to the area."

— SPL staff member



- 7400 Imagination Parkway, Sacramento, CA 95823
- Built 2011

✓	Building	20,500 SF
✓	Site Size	Little room to expand
✓	Condition ¹	A grade
✓	Location	Within civic campus
○	Operations	Need improvement

¹ See page 82 for more information

VALLEY HI-NORTH LAGUNA LIBRARY

The fourth largest SPL location at 20,500 square feet, Valley Hi-North Laguna Library draws patrons in from southern Sacramento neighborhoods, Elk Grove, and nearby unincorporated communities. Its site adjacent to Shasta Community Park and Consumnes River College and near a high school and three elementary schools allows it to serve a large, young, and diverse population interested in core library services and technology access. The library’s computers and collections are highly used and its popular program offerings include bilingual early learning and STEAM activities for youth.

The modern design of the library’s public spaces has successful and challenging aspects. The successful elements include the large, open, high-ceilinged main space, which has wall-to-wall windows on the north side and children’s, teen, computer, learning center, and community room spaces along the south side. The main space’s natural light, reading/work tables, computers, and two study rooms are popular reasons that patrons visit Valley Hi-North Laguna. The tech room/computer lab is also popular with community college students, who are often directed to the library to access technology.

Challenging aspects of the library’s design include the lobby, which incorporates an oval-shaped lounge area and Friends of the Library book sale area and from which the restrooms are accessed. The library’s layout does not allow staff to supervise the lobby from the circulation desk or staff work areas, which has resulted in instances of problematic patron behavior and



removal of vending machines from the lounge. The similarly oval-shaped storytime space in the children's area is also a challenge to use as intended due to its layout, and the community room and teen room are underused in part due to high summer heat gain through the south-facing windows.

Behind the public scenes, the library facility also has successes and challenges. Staff areas of the library are generously sized, providing sufficient space for library staff offices, work room, and a materials sorting machine. The sorting machine allows Valley Hi-North Laguna to function as a collection services hub for SPL's southern county locations. The library's building systems generate frequent issues and service requests, particularly the electrical system.

RECOMMENDATION

Overall, the facility is well designed to continue provide effective, modern library services at its current size and location. To maximize its service capacity, investments in building systems repairs and maintenance, minor renovations, and interior furnishings should be considered. Reorganizing the storytime space and incorporating more engaging elements in the children's area, reprogramming the lounge space, reducing summer solar heat gain in the teen and community spaces, replacing tall shelving with shorter accessible shelving, and enhancing the main room's evening lighting are improvements that could be made through one or more projects.

"This branch has incredible natural light due to the large north-facing windows and the sizeable windows in the teen area. It creates a very impressive and welcoming space when patrons enter or use the adult section and teen room. Patrons love the window-side tables — most days every table is utilized. Additionally, having study rooms is a great resource for patrons."

— SPL staff member

ABOUT THE FACILITY CONDITION GRADES

This Facilities Vision planning process relied on prior assessments, available data, and anecdotal evidence to understand the general condition and maintenance outlook for SPL facilities. The County of Sacramento’s 2021 Library Facilities Master Plan (an appendix to this report under separate cover) referenced a previous Facility Condition Assessment (FCA) study by Kitchell, which assigned letter grade scores representing each library’s condition. The City of Sacramento commissioned FCA studies of its city-owned library facilities in 2017-2018; its FCA consultant, Cannon Design, did not assign letter grades to each facility. Elk Grove and the other JPA member cities did not have formal FCA studies to share with SPL for this Facilities Vision process.

SPL worked with its other JPA members to develop a facility condition grading scale that for the purposes of this study would be reasonably comparable to the Kitchell study’s scoring for County-owned facilities. The condition scores for the facilities profiled in this Chapter 6 are based on the following condition grading criteria:

✓	A	Facility appears to be in good condition. Systems function adequately and are well within their anticipated lifespan.
○	B	Facility has begun to show signs of wear. Systems function adequately but are approaching their expected lifespan; more frequent component and equipment failure can be expected.
○	C/B	Facility appears to be in decent condition with some signs of wear, but has underlying infrastructure deficiencies. More frequent component and equipment failure can be expected, which could be major
x	C	Facility looks worn with more visible deterioration. Systems are at or beyond their expected lifespan. Major component and equipment failure can be expected, which may require building shutdown to address.
x	D	Facility looks worn and shows obvious deterioration. Systems are beyond their expected lifespan; component and equipment failure is expected or has already occurred. Building shutdowns have occurred in order to address failures and associated damage.