

The New Imperial Beach Library

Frequently Asked Questions



The Board of Supervisors authorized the construction of a new library for the Imperial Beach community in July 2014. This project is being funded by the County of San Diego. It will offer a host of services including free access to 42 million books, DVD movies, and music CDs.

How will the new library's architect and contractor be chosen?

The new library will be built using the Design-Build model. The Design-Build Request for Statement of Qualifications was released in August 2014. The three most qualified bidders will go on to the final phase of the bidding process which is the Request for Proposal. The RFP was released late 2014. From these T. B. Penick and Sons Inc. was chosen as the General Contractor.

What is the timeline for the new library?

- Move to the Boys & Girls Club in November 2015
- Groundbreaking in January 2016
- Completion in winter 2016

Where is the new library located?

The new library is being constructed on the same site as the current building. It will maintain the address of 810 Imperial Beach Blvd.

Will the library be open during construction?

There will be a temporary facility located at the Imperial Beach Boys and Girls Club, which will offer popular titles, public computers and programming while the new library is being built.

How big is the new library?

The new library will be approximately 14,000 square feet which includes the incorporation of the 2,000 square foot Marina Vista Room into the new library.

Will there be additional parking?

Yes, parking will be located on 8th Street and 25 designated parking spots will be added at St. James Lutheran Church. The current street parking will also be reconfigured to allow for additional parking.

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What features will be included in the new library?

- Kids & Family Area featuring new books for kids, space for storytimes and crafts
- Teen Space that will feature new books and study rooms
- Popular materials browsing area
- Larger collection of books and library materials
- Comfortable lounge seating throughout the building
- Quiet study rooms for individuals and small groups
- Large community room for events and meetings
- Friends of the Library bookstore

What are some of the technological features of the new library?

- Additional public internet computers that are available whenever the library is open
- Computer lab, and free wireless internet access for laptop users
- Automated book check-out, giving customers the ability to check out their favorite titles quickly and efficiently
- Automated book returns offering customers receipts for their items
- A MakerBot 3D printer
- A color printer/copier

How was the community involved?

The City of Imperial Beach and the community have been important partners in making this project possible. Planning for the new library has included several community meetings in which the citizens of Imperial Beach were asked for their input. The result is a project that has incorporated the key elements discussed in the building plans.

How can I help?

A donation to the Friends can help build the best library possible for the Imperial Beach community. For information on how to contribute please contact the Friends of the Imperial Beach Library.

Have there been other large-scale library construction projects like this recently?

Yes, SDCL has built 11 new libraries in 11 years. We partner with the public, private, and non-profit sectors in order to develop innovative and sustainable branch libraries. SDCL received a People's Choice Orchid Award from the San Diego Architectural Foundation for the Fallbrook Library, and a Design Award of Honor from the California Council Society of American Registered Architects for the Alpine Library. SDCL's buildings have also been featured in *Library Journal* and *American Libraries* magazine.

