



### **Celebrating the Neighborhood Library Campaign**

Friends of the San Francisco Public Library's Neighborhood Library Campaign (NLC), launched in 2003, raised nearly \$14 million in private funds to help transform San Francisco's libraries, dramatically changing 24 libraries technologically, seismically and environmentally. These much needed funds supplemented the city's Branch Library Improvement Program (BLIP)—approved overwhelmingly by voters in 2000 in a campaign led by Friends—and have equipped and furnished these libraries for collections, programming and staff.

As libraries across the country were cutting services and closing doors due to economic hardship, San Francisco Public Library has revitalized its neighborhood libraries to offer state-of-the-art facilities, materials, programming and services—standing firm with the community in the belief that libraries are an investment in our collective future.

Friends' support has helped renovate sixteen neighborhood libraries, replace seven branches with NEW, larger city-owned buildings, and create the Mission Bay library, one of the first libraries in the campaign to open and the first new San Francisco library in more than forty years, which has become an anchor in a robust and growing neighborhood.

Friends reached into the neighborhoods, involving people of all ages and backgrounds in this unique library renaissance in convincing neighbors, colleagues, local businesses and organizations to become part of the largest library campaign in our city's history. Thousands of committed, caring neighbors and friends from all walks of life throughout San Francisco stepped forward to help ensure a healthy future for our library and our community. With your generosity, San Francisco's libraries have entered a new era, one that embraces all of our city's diverse cultural and ethnic communities, from Bayview to Bernal Heights.

In May 2014, all of San Francisco celebrated as the final library of the program opened in North Beach with hundreds of visitors celebrating a new building in this historic and culturally diverse neighborhood. Friends is proud to have been a critical partner in transforming libraries and communities throughout the city. At the heart of its endeavors, Friends of the San Francisco Public Library seeks to build healthy, vibrant communities through the city's extensive library system, now and in the future.