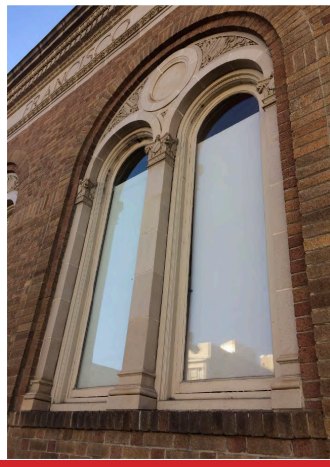


CHINATOWN LIBRARY RENOVATION

HIM MARK LAI BRANCH OF THE SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY

ADAPTING FOR THE FUTURE

The San Francisco Public Library presents a state-of-the-art library that welcomes and connects residents and celebrates Chinese and Asian culture in one of the city's most iconic neighborhoods.

In collaboration with the community and Friends of the San Francisco Public Library, the SFPL will transform Chinatown/Him Mark Lai Branch Library into a modern, resilient neighborhood library, enhancing both its inherent charm and its practical use. The renovated branch will incorporate 21st Century library practices, the latest technology, and zero-carbon renewable energy into this landmarked 1921 Carnegie Library. The renovation will also create flexible space for multilanguage collections and cultural programming, improve navigation through the three floors, and add a rooftop deck to enjoy a world-class view.

Friends is raising money to complete the renovation. While the Library Preservation Fund will fund the construction costs, Friends will raise $2 million in private donations for state-of-the-art fixtures, furniture, and equipment inside the building as well as Library programs across the Library system.

FRIENDS *of the*
SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY

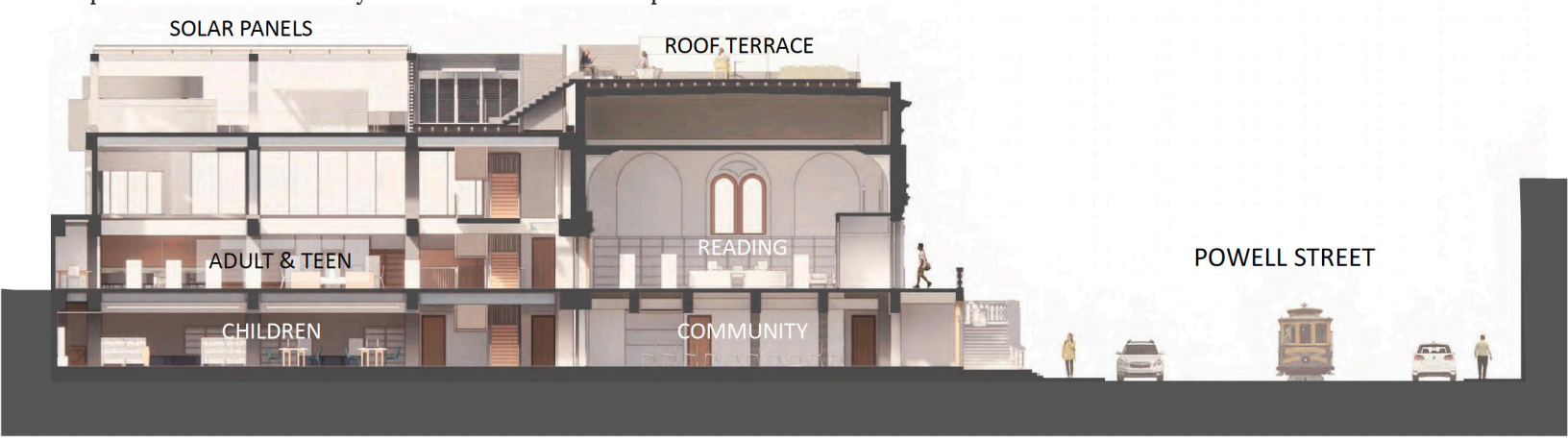
EXPANDING COMMUNITY ACCESS AND PROGRAMMING

The hopes and priorities of the community are built into a renovation that will:

- Create a 100-person capacity community room for programs and events
- Add a community gallery to honor Chinese and Asian American history, culture, and contributions to San Francisco
- Restore the historic reading room
- Expand the Children's Center and add a dedicated teen space
- Expand access to technology with free WIFI throughout the building and laptop lending
- Improve entry and navigation of the building and add two ADA-compliant bathrooms
- Add study and conference rooms
- Provide an air respite site during heat waves and wildfires
- Maintain a safe space for gathering and dialogue among people of all cultures

NEW DESIGN OF AN ICONIC BRANCH

The Chinatown/Him Mark Lai Branch, located at 1135 Powell Street, opened in 1921 and is a designated San Francisco landmark. The branch underwent a seismic renovation in 1996, which marred its historic architecture, created a confusing floorplan, and reduced available community space. After many years, Friends and the Library are proud to present the community-driven transformation plan.



Getting in and around. The branch significantly improves ADA access with multiple entrances on Powell Street and a central elevator connecting all levels. The ground-level left entry will open into a new Community Gallery, while the center entry will lead directly into the new Community Room. The historic circular staircase will take patrons into the restored Grand Reading Room.

GROUND LEVEL

The **Community Gallery** will feature artwork and exhibitions from local artists.

The **100-Person Community Room** will accommodate groups for community events, author readings, performances, ESL classes, arts, and wellness programs.

The **Children's Center** will be expanded to include age-appropriate book collections, furniture, computers, arts and crafts classes, free play, and story time for infants, toddlers, and school-aged children.

MAIN FLOOR & MEZZANINE. The second floor brings together the Grand Reading Room, multilanguage book collections, resources for professional and personal development, and a designated learning space for teenagers and young adults.

The **Grand Reading Room** will be restored to its original design with vaulted ceilings, an open reading space, and books lining the walls.

Along with its general English collections, the renovated branch will house books, magazines, audiobooks, CDs, and DVDs in Chinese, an Asian interest section, and daily newspapers in English and Chinese.

Two enclosed **Study Rooms** on the second level will provide private space for individuals, while a new 10-person **Conference Room** on the mezzanine is available for group meetings.

Teens can gather in their own space to do homework, check out laptops, access curated teen collections, and participate in college prep and career development programs.

ROOF TERRACE. One of the most exciting elements of the renovation is a new outdoor community space for patrons to read, relax, gather, and participate in group activities while soaking in classic San Francisco views. A solar array on the roof will generate electricity for this 100% carbon-free building.

Equitable Access and Climate Resilience

Access and Safety: The renovation will include seismic upgrades for earthquake safety and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act to ensure the entire building is fully accessible.

Climate Resilience: Air conditioning will be installed to circulate cool air throughout the building. And mechanical systems will integrate enhanced filtration to reduce poor air quality. These measures will allow the branch to serve as an air respite center during heat waves and wildfires.

Expanded Computer and WIFI Access: The branch will enjoy an enhanced WIFI signal throughout the building, more electrical outlets for charging devices, and double the current number of computers through laptop lending on the levels.

Decarbonization & Renewable Energy: The branch will be renovated under San Francisco's movement to carbon-free and 100% renewable sources, powered by electricity from the City's Hetch Hetchy hydroelectric power and solar-generated power from a 16.6 kW rooftop solar photovoltaic panel array.

U.S. GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL
LEED GOLD
USGBC

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CHINATOWN LIBRARY RENOVATION
HIM MARK LAI BRANCH OF THE SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY

OPPORTUNITIES TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE RENOVATION

Friends of the San Francisco Public Library is pleased to launch its fundraising campaign to renovate the Him Mark Lai Chinatown Library Branch. While the City funds construction costs, Friends will raise an additional $2 million in private funds for the project. Seventy-five percent of the campaign will fund state-of-the-art fixtures, furniture, and equipment, including technology, décor, and the new community room and teen area. Twenty-five percent of the campaign will fund programs across the Library system. This campaign includes options for naming rights to rooms and spaces.

Donate to the $2 million campaign.
Donors investing $10,000 and above will be named on a unified acknowledgment plaque at the branch.

Choose a donation with naming rights to rooms.
Exclusive naming rights to rooms are available for high-level gifts beginning at $50,000. Donors are welcome to use their name(s) or consider naming a space in honor of someone else.

Description	Floor	Naming Value	Claimed
Historic Reading Room	Second	$500,000	
Roof Terrace	Third	$400,000	
Community Room	First	$250,000	
Children's Center	First	$250,000	
Grand Staircase	All	$150,000	Claimed
Community Gallery	First	$150,000	
Teen Area	Second	$100,000	Claimed
Mezzanine Overlook	Mezzanine	$100,000	Claimed
Judy Yung Staircase	First	$50,000	Claimed
Study Room	Second	$50,000	Claimed
Conference Room	Mezzanine	$50,000	Claimed
Welcome Desk: Children's Room	First	$50,000	Claimed
Welcome Desk: Historic Reading Room	Second	$50,000	Claimed
Patron Services Desk	Second	$50,000	

To inquire about opportunities for naming rights, please contact our Development Director, Jessica Parker, at jessica.parker@friendssfpl.org or 415-477-5231.

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