Dear Supporters,

Thanks to you, the Berkeley Public Library Foundation is a vital source of funding for library innovation and excellence. Thank you for joining all of us who believe that public libraries matter.

What I love about the library most is that it’s for everyone. It is an indispensable institution. The Berkeley Public Library ensures that children, families, and people of every age, background, and circumstance all have a common place to be together to read, learn, and have fun. The value of such spaces in a community cannot be overstated. To be at a public library is to feel the excitement of having free and open access to both the past and the future. As a cultural connector, a hub for discovery and exploration, the library has amazing power to shape generations. It is thrilling to be a part of something so essential.

Your gifts help the library do perhaps its most important job — reduce the growing inequality of our time. With your support the library is building safe, comfortable, and accessible spaces. It’s building bridges that help people navigate a diverse world, learn to read, find jobs, solve problems, be creative, and get healthy.

Every day the Berkeley Public library is making people’s lives better and the community stronger. Thank you for making that possible.

With deep appreciation,

Kathy Huff
Executive Director

The Foundation

The Berkeley Public Library Foundation partners with community members, organizations, foundations, and businesses to raise funds that sustain and grow the excellence of all five locations of the Berkeley Public Library. After a successful $3 million campaign to help rebuild and renovate four branch libraries, our focus now is on improvements to the Central Library. “It’s Time for Central” launches exciting upgrades at the historic downtown library, beginning with the first and second floors.

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Your Dollars at Work

The impact of your support is everywhere at the library. The vast majority of the dollars contributed since our last report will help bring high-impact improvements to downtown’s historic Central Library. Construction of a dynamic new teen space and reference room begin early next year. Also, thanks to you, these other innovations can be found all around town:

- Four beautiful branch libraries are bursting with activity and winning awards for energy efficiency.
- Librarians are taking library services wherever people gather with the Library on Wheels “book bike.”
- The annual Authors Dinner, AfterWORDS series, and other events spotlight local authors, artists, and thinkers.
- A Tech for Teens initiative puts computers into the hands of homeless youth.
- Berkeley Builds Readers is expanding family literacy services to childcare centers in underserved areas.
- A partnership with Cornerstones of Science supports exciting new models for science literacy for all ages at the five library locations.

Foundation and Business Grants:

- $4,812 in events
- $22,500 in innovations
- $13,500 in literacy
- $389,000 in central renovations

2015-16 Grants to the Library, $429,812
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An extraordinary library is built by you!
We send a huge THANK YOU to all of our donors for your gifts and pledges.

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Rosa Shattuck was a Berkeley civic leader who donated the land for the city's first permanent library home in 1903. She supported the public library all her life.

The Rosa Shattuck Circle was formed in December 2015 to recognize those who wish to make a lasting connection to the library with donations of $1,000 or more. Circle donors enjoy special events and benefits throughout the year.

The Berkeley Public Library Foundation gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the charter Rosa Shattuck Circle members.
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179,000 uses of library computers accessible to the public

407,000+ checkouts each year from Berkeley’s innovative tool lending library

170 volunteer tutors support 220 adult literacy learners through Berkeley Reads
Looking Ahead

Next year the Foundation turns 20!

During our Anniversary Year we celebrate the new teen and reference rooms at Central and continue to raise funds for other improvements and upgrades to the downtown library. Look for a special 15th Annual Authors Dinner in February, and meet some of Berkeley’s most exciting authors, artists, and thinkers at our AfterWORDS series. With your continued support we will provide equipment and resources for more innovations.