

Measure B

A large part of the growth in the library has been a direct result of promises made to voters when they passed Measure B in 1998. Following voter approval, the library quickly added hours of service (including Sunday hours) as well as more books, programs, and services for everyone. The Benicia Public Library is able to operate 7 days a week, a total of 3,224 hours per year, as a result of this 1/8 cent sales tax.

2009 will mark the 10th year the funds from Measure B have been available, and during that time we have made enormous steps forward in library service. Measure B funds allow us to serve you better by providing special programs for teens (87 programs last year with 2,008 attending), additional programs for children including Baby Story Time, coordinating volunteers and providing more outreach into the community, with administrative staff helping to keep up with the public's demands for books. Many hours of assistance at the service desk are paid for with Measure B funds.

Thank you for shopping in Benicia — your support helps us expand, maintain, and establish new and improved services.

**Twice each month,
the Friends of the Library provide
book bargains for bibliophiles.**



More to come...

Did you know?

The library has been open for **15 years** at its "L" Street location! * The library has **123,158 items**, including DVDs, videos, music CDs, novels and nonfiction books for all ages, electronic books, books on tape, books on CD, and downloadable audio-books. * There are **19,536 library card holders** in Benicia, and the library tries to have something for everyone; if a specific item is not available, we can borrow it for you. Suggestions and comments are always welcome! * **232,923 visitors** came to the library last year! * We answered **41,792 questions**. * We offered **556 programs** to **19,026 people**; **10% more people attended our programs** than last year. * in 2007-2008, we **circulated 343,106 items**. This is a 7% increase over the previous year and is equivalent to every person in Benicia checking out 12 items during the year. * **Measure B**, a 1/8 cent sales tax approved by the citizens of Solano County in 1998, **contributed** more than ever to library operations -- almost **\$700,000** this fiscal year! **Thank you for supporting the library by shopping Benicia First!**

Benicia Public Library

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www.benicialibrary.org



Benicia Public Library 2007-2008 Annual Report

*The Benicia Public Library
contributes to the success of
our diverse community by being
a vital center of learning,
communication, culture and
enjoyment.*



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Benicia Public Library 2007--2008 Annual Report

This has been an exciting and rewarding year at the Benicia Public Library. Not only did more people use the library, but also more books were checked out than ever before, and more people attended programs for every age. With so much growth in library use, we have been searching for ways to make your library experience a better one.

In Summer of 2007, we received authorization from the City Council to hire an architect to create a conceptual design for completion of the library's basement. Staff provided input and shared thoughts about the design, and in Fall 2007, we asked library users to give input on the conceptual floor plan. Based upon this input, we formed a design for the basement that included some changes to the upper floor with more quiet spaces, different public computer areas, and easier access to a new Friends of the Library bookstore.

The completion of the basement is now essential as more people are using the library than ever before. This is no longer just a quiet space for studying; as we have moved into the 21st century, libraries everywhere have become more central to community activities. As sometimes occurs in cities that do not have a traditional community center, the Benicia Library has filled a need by providing some of the activities that will eventually be available at a Benicia Community Center.



**Books, videos,
DVDs, CDs, and the
world!**

While we will continue to purchase materials for recreational reading, lifelong learning, and cultural enhancement, we also currently meet the needs of Benicia's community by providing: space for artists to display their works; a venue for musicians, actors, performers and dancers to showcase their talents; activities for teens; conference and meeting rooms for public use; language and computer labs for our literacy learners; programming for children of all ages; and public computer access. In order to keep pace with the growing needs of the community, we need more room to grow!

The City Council affirmed this need and approved the basement design in November 2007, and construction drawings with a cost estimate followed in March 2008. Sadly, the cost estimate projects that an additional \$500,000 will be required; as a result, the project is on hold until additional funding is located. Both the Friends of the Benicia Public Library and the Benicia Library Foundation have initiated fundraising efforts for the basement's completion, but in all likelihood additional money will need to come from another source.

Although we would like to move the project forward while construction costs are low, we recognize that economic uncertainty may delay the project until a later date when

money will be more readily available.

Events, Grants & new services:

We celebrated several unique events this year. The community celebrated the 20th anniversary of Benicia Library's Literacy program. Another celebration came in the spring, as library supporters celebrated 15 years of library service on East L Street.

We received a grant from the State Library that allowed us to start recording anecdotes from Benicia's past. Three to four minute digital clips capture residents' brief glimpses of our local history. For more information, please visit our website!

The library also instituted a program that allows card holders to check out museum passes for 24 hours. Check our website for a list of participating museums and for other current events and new programs at the library!



**Benefiting all who
choose to enrich
their lives.**

Benicia Public Library

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