

 **LOS ANGELES
PUBLIC LIBRARY**



Grand Opening Celebration

for the

John C. Fremont Branch

6121 Melrose Avenue

Monday, March 25, 1996

1:00 p.m.

JOHN C. FREMONT BRANCH LIBRARY

History

The John C. Fremont Branch Library history began in 1912 when Colegrove Station reading room was opened at Vine Street and Santa Monica Boulevard by a group of public-spirited citizens.

Designated a sub-branch of the Hollywood Branch Library in 1916, the reading room moved to a bungalow in 1923 erected on the grounds of the Vine Street School. That year voters approved a bond measure for the construction of new library branches, including a permanent home for the bungalow, then known as the Santa Monica Boulevard Branch Library.

In 1925, the bungalow was moved to the corner of Melrose Avenue and Seward Street in anticipation of the construction of a new permanent branch at the northeast corner of Melrose Avenue and June Street. The Board of Library Commissioners that year also voted to change the branch's name to the John C. Fremont Branch to honor the noted American explorer, soldier and politician. Fremont, known by the nickname "Trailblazer," had played a major role in the 1846 "Bear Flag" Revolt and in the American conquest of California.

Construction of the new branch began on December 26, 1926, and was completed in May of 1927. It opened June 1 with no chairs or tables for the first week. This did not deter patrons, however, who leaned against book shelves or just sat on the floor to read.

The charming building, which has been described as early Italian with a touch of Spanish, has since earned a position on the National Register of Historic Places and has been designated a Historic Cultural Monument of the City of Los Angeles.

In 1990, the building was closed in compliance with the Los Angeles City Building and Safety Commission's earthquake hazard reduction order. Its masonry was unreinforced and did not meet seismic safety codes. Temporary quarters were set up at 736 N. La Brea Avenue, from which location the library operated until February 17, 1996. With restoration of the historic building almost complete, the library staff, along with volunteers from the community, began moving books and readying the building for opening day.

The John C. Fremont Branch's historic building was reinforced and renovated as part of the Library's Branch Library Building Project, made possible by the passage of Proposition #1, the 1989 Library Bond Issue. The branch has been enlarged and modernized. A multi-purpose room has been added which will provide the community a meeting place. A much needed parking lot has been provided. M2A, Barry Milofsky and Thomas Michali, Architects, designed the renovated facility, which is air-conditioned and accessible to the physically challenged. The building has increased electrical capacity to accommodate modern library technology, such as LAPL's new automated circulation system and computerized catalogue, which provides information about books available within the entire Los Angeles Public Library system. These renovations bring the building up to code and ensure that the facility has the capabilities to meet the demands of a new century.

An outdoor courtyard has been added, with the sculptures entitled "Big Ideas" by artist Barbara Field. These free-standing sculptures and functional elements are large punctuation marks made of glazed and handmade tiles, some of which were designed by neighborhood school children. The art includes a question mark, an exclamation mark and parentheses which align with the curved entrances of the building and echo both the old and the new architecture.

The John C. Fremont Branch Library is located in the Fourth Council District represented by John Ferraro.

PROGRAM

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Huell Howser, Host/Producer of "California's Gold" and
"Visiting...with Huell Howser" on PBS

PRESENTATION OF COLORS

Hollywood High School Junior ROTC Color Guard, First Sgt. Ray Smith
Hollywood High School Sheiks Marching Band - Musical Director, Greg Martin

INVOCATION

The Rev. Alexander C. George, Pastor, Christ The King Catholic Church

SONGS

Melrose Avenue School Chorus - Directed by Sally Porton; Don Eaholtz, Accompanist

WELCOME

Susan Goldberg Kent, City Librarian

GUEST SPEAKERS

Richard J. Riordan, Mayor, City of Los Angeles

John Ferraro, Council President, Councilmember, Fourth District

Michael Feuer, Councilmember, Fifth District

Zev Yaroslavsky, County Supervisor, Third District

Olivia Cueva-Fernández, President, Board of Library Commissioners

Dr. Lawrence Rauch, Professor, California Institute of Technology,
Community Representative

Andrea Ramirez, 5th grade student, Vine Street Elementary School

RIBBON CUTTING

POST-CEREMONY ENTERTAINMENT

Miji Park, Korean Dancer

Third Street School's "Super School" Program: Tae Kwon Do Demonstration

Jamie Anderson, Instructor

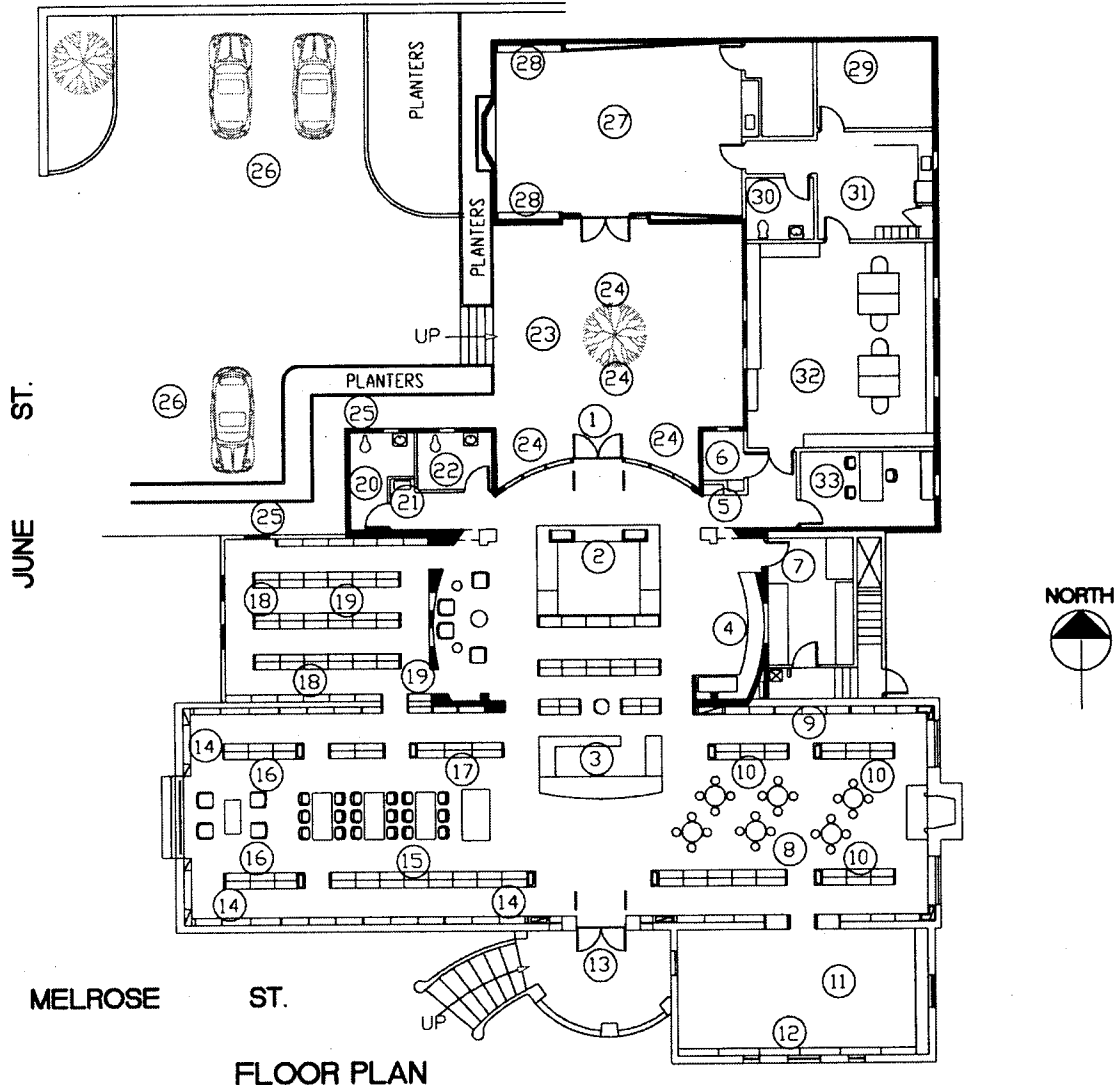
REFRESHMENTS

B&L Patisserie, Rudy Knoll, Owner, 246 N. Larchmont; **Bank of America**,
Cha Yong Park, Vice President, 100 N. Larchmont Blvd; **California Chicken Cafe**,
6805 Melrose Avenue; **Conroy's Florists**, 707 N. La Brea Avenue; **McDonald's**,
Bob Goldfarb, Owner/Operator, 1413 Vine Street, Hollywood; **Pavilions**, Gary Rogers,
Manager, 727 N. Vine Street; **Rauch's Cookie Company**, Hollywood;
Vine-American Party Store, Leslie Macias, Manager, 5969 Melrose Avenue;
Wells Fargo Bank, at Pavilions, 727 N. Vine Street.

THANK YOU

to the following for their support of today's festivities:
Ester Aller, Edwina Fields, Rachel Goldman, Hope Heany, Dr. Jeanne Hon, Gayle Johnson,
Susie Oh, Thelma Pehar, Norma Rauch, Les Rensen, and the Friends of the
John C. Fremont Branch Library

JOHN C. FREMONT BRANCH LIBRARY



FLOOR PLAN

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| ① MAIN ENTRANCE (JUNE ST.) | ①7 NEW BOOKS |
| ② CIRCULATION DESK | ①8 ADULT NON-FICTION |
| ③ REFERENCE DESK | ①9 YOUNG ADULT SECTION |
| ④ ON-LINE CATALOGS | ②0 MEN'S RESTROOM |
| ⑤ PUBLIC TELEPHONE | ②1 DRINKING FOUNTAIN |
| ⑥ BOOK DROP | ②2 WOMEN'S RESTROOM |
| ⑦ PHOTOCOPY ROOM | ②3 COURTYARD |
| ⑧ CHILDREN'S SECTION | ②4 PUBLIC ART |
| ⑨ JUVENILE NON-FICTION | ②5 HANDICAP RAMP TO MAIN ENTRANCE |
| ⑩ JUVENILE FICTION | ②6 PARKING |
| ⑪ HOMEWORK CENTER | ②7 MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM |
| ⑫ PRE-SCHOOL/PICTURE BOOKS | ②8 FRIENDS OF LIBRARY BOOKSHELVES |
| ⑬ HISTORIC ENTRANCE (MELROSE AVE) | ②9 COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT ROOM |
| ⑭ ADULT FICTION | ③0 STAFF RESTROOM |
| ⑮ MULTILINGUAL COLLECTION | ③1 STAFF LOUNGE |
| ⑯ ADULT MAGAZINES | ③2 STAFF WORKROOM |
| | ③3 SENIOR LIBRARIAN'S OFFICE |

MAYOR OF LOS ANGELES

Richard J. Riordan

COUNCILMEMBER - FOURTH DISTRICT

John Ferraro

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

Olivia Cueva-Fernández, President

Lucy McCoy, Vice President

Robert Burkett

Gary A. Ross

Julia M. Simmons

CITY LIBRARIAN

Susan Goldberg Kent

DIRECTOR OF BRANCHES

Carmen Martinez

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF BRANCHES

Fontayne Holmes

PRINCIPAL LIBRARIAN

BRANCH CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Juliana Cheng

HOLLYWOOD REGIONAL MANAGER

Jennifer Lambelet

BRANCH LIBRARIAN

Judith Katz

LIBRARY STAFF

Marjory Hopper, Children's Librarian; **Marilyn Russell**, Young Adult Librarian;
Eileen Bowen, Clerk Typist; **Samuel Dovlatian**, Clerk Typist; **Judith Close**, Library
Clerical Assistant; **Paruyr Mkrtychyan**, Messenger Clerk; **Marisela Gonzalez**,
Messenger Clerk; **Macha Bennet**, Messenger Clerk; **Ralph Hardy**, Custodian