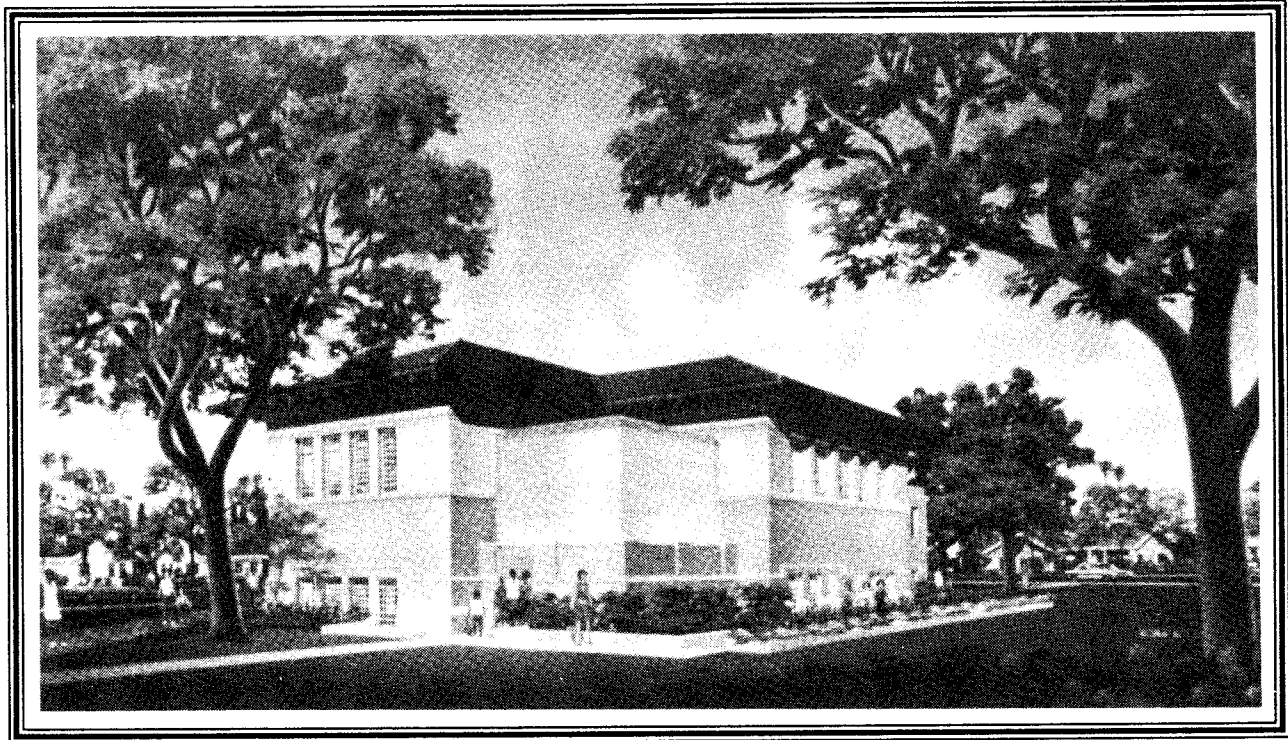


LOS ANGELES
PUBLIC LIBRARY



Grand Opening Celebration

for the

Vermont Square Branch

1201 W. 48th Street

Saturday, May 11, 1996

2:00 p.m.

VERMONT SQUARE BRANCH LIBRARY

History

The Vermont Square Branch of the Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL), built in 1913, is the oldest branch library building in Los Angeles. The Italian Renaissance style facility at 1201 W. 48th Street was built with funds provided by the Carnegie Foundation.

On May 26, 1990, this historic 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 5401 S. Figueroa Street.

Thanks to Proposition #1, the 1989 Library Bond Issue, which made possible the Library's Branch Library Building Project, the Vermont Square Branch Library is now opened to the public at the original building. The Shimazu Partnership modernized and reinforced the renovated facility, making it accessible to the disabled and increasing the electrical capacity to accommodate modern library technology.

Through the generosity of Wells Fargo Bank which has "adopted" the branch, Vermont Square Branch Library has been designated a "virtual electronic library," with multi-media computer workstations that will link the library to the electronic resources of the Central Library and a vast array of databases.

Artist Nobuho Nagasawa created the artwork which consists of functional library furniture: 11 preschool stools in the shape of letters that spell out the word, IMAGINATION, and a glass table with sandblasted text, listing titles of books that have at one time or other been banned in some of America's public schools and libraries in the United States, ranging from John Steinbeck's *East of Eden* to Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

When the 48th Street facility was first opened in March 1, 1913, the 8,000-square-foot building housed a collection of 2,000 books on shelves that were planned to accommodate 16,000 volumes. The community, however, received the branch enthusiastically; it was literally jammed for the simple opening night ceremonies. Members of the Vermont Square Improvement Association planned the opening program and appeared in formal attire to accept the facility from the Board of Library Commissioners. Within four months, the book collection and card holders had nearly doubled.

Throughout World War I, the branch hummed with patriotic activity. On July 30, 1917, the Local Exemption Board of District #6 made the story hour room its headquarters and remained there for nearly two years. Four Red Cross auxiliaries were organized at the library as well.

In March, 1933, the building suffered earthquake damage. The chimney fell, taking part of the building's ornamental terra cotta cornice with it, and many large cracks in walls and ceilings appeared. Though the chimney was repaired immediately, it was not until the next summer, 1934, that the interior was redecorated. New light fixtures were installed and the walls and ceiling were painted.

The Vermont Square Branch was again ensconced in activity during World War II. It was designated a district air raid shelter and Red Cross casualty center in case of need; used three times by the local draft board as a registration center; made a meeting place for district air raid wardens and the organizational meeting place for the U.S.O.'s (United Services Organization) Southwest District; and was an accredited civilian county defense information center, operated by the regular library staff.

From 1949 to 1978 the branch served as headquarters for the Library's Central Region, and in 1963 celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. In 1983, Los Angeles Times columnist Jack Smith attended the Vermont Square Branch's 70th anniversary celebration. Receiving "The Oldest Living Patron" award from the branch, Smith said, "I certainly developed my literary style and attitudes toward life at those low round tables in the children's room."

PROGRAM

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Ron Glass, Actor

PRESENTATION OF COLORS

Boys' Scouts of America, Troop 182

Scoutmaster, Wilbur Scott

INVOCATION

Rev. Artis Turnbough, Greater Mount Herman
Missionary Baptist Church of Los Angeles

WELCOME

Susan Goldberg Kent, City Librarian

GUEST SPEAKERS

Rita Walters, Councilmember, Ninth District

Anthony Thomas, Area Representative for Mayor Richard Riordan

Olivia Cueva Fernández, President, Board of Library Commissioners

Barry A. Sanders, Secretary, Library Foundation of Los Angeles

Gladys Ross, Vice President, Marketplace Manager, Wells Fargo Bank

Perry Clark, Community Representative

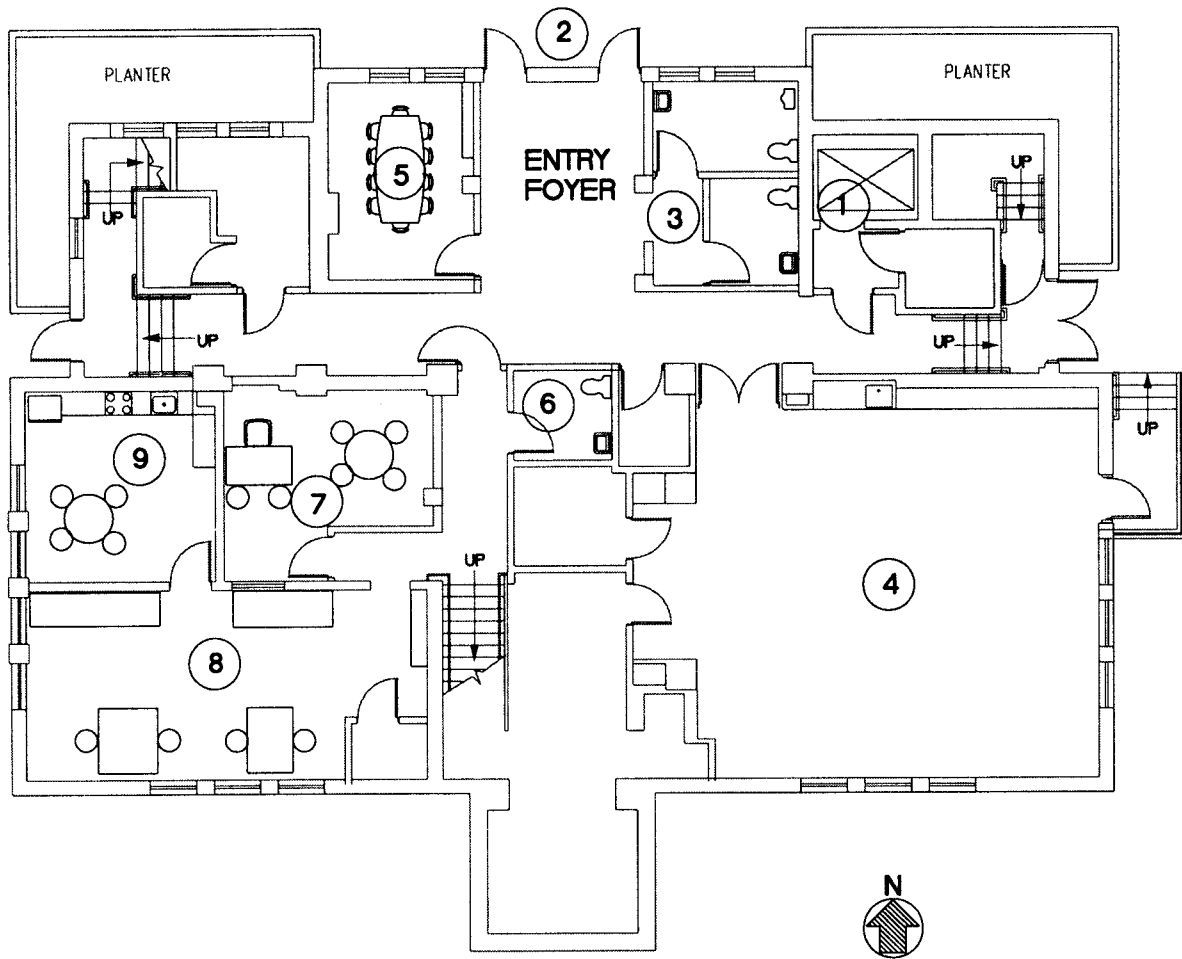
Jindji Azeez and Alicia Ramirez, 5th Grade Students,
52nd St. Elementary School

RIBBON CUTTING

ENTERTAINMENT

Raymond Pitts and The Jazz Poets

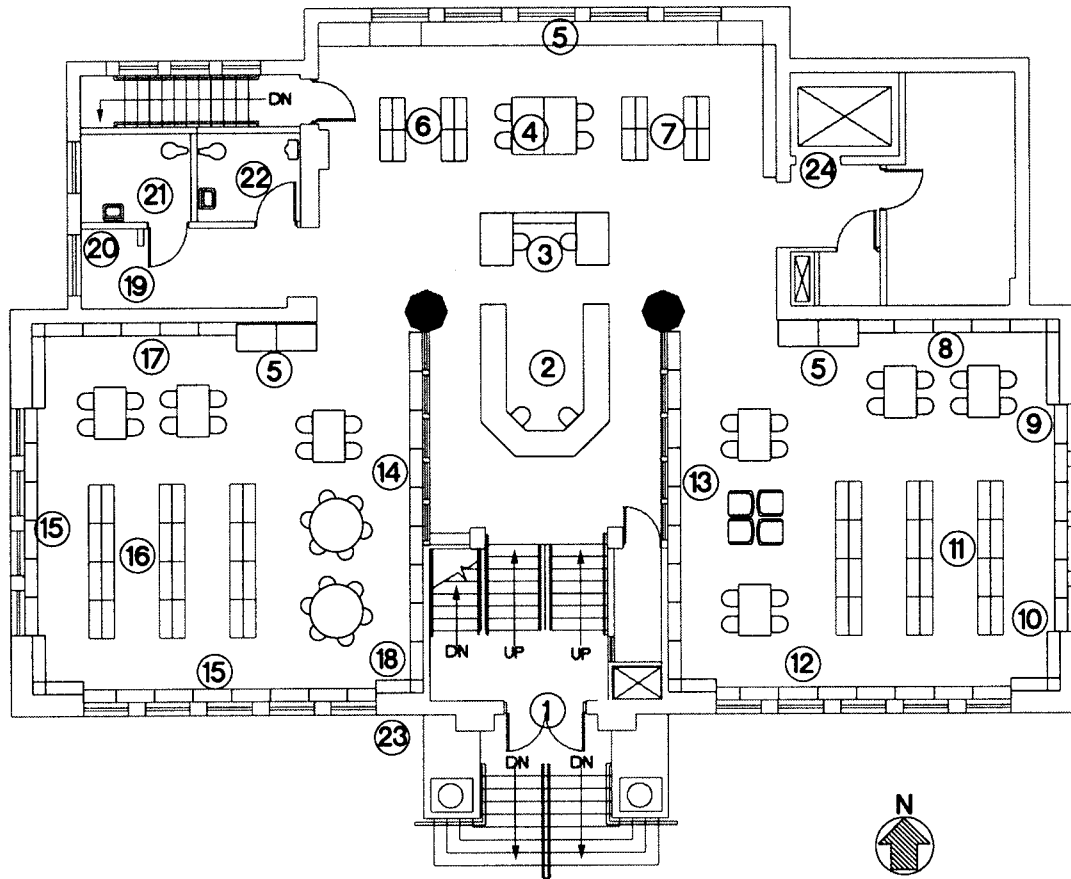
VERMONT SQUARE BRANCH LIBRARY



LOWER FLOOR PLAN

- ① ELEVATOR
- ② HANDICAPPED ENTRANCE
- ③ PUBLIC RESTROOMS
- ④ MULTI PURPOSE ROOM
- ⑤ MEETING ROOM
- ⑥ STAFF RESTROOM
- ⑦ SENIOR LIBRARIAN'S OFFICE
- ⑧ STAFF WORK ROOM
- ⑨ STAFF LOUNGE

VERMONT SQUARE BRANCH LIBRARY



UPPER FLOOR PLAN

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| ① | MAIN ENTRANCE | ⑬ | MAGAZINES |
| ② | CIRCULATION DESK | ⑭ | PRESCHOOL/PICTURE BOOKS |
| ③ | INFORMATION DESK | ⑮ | CHILDREN'S FICTION/FAIRY TALES |
| ④ | 'BANNED BOOKS' ART BY NOBUHO NAGASWA | ⑯ | CHILDREN'S NON FICTON |
| ⑤ | COMPUTERS/ON LINE CATALOG | ⑰ | LIBROS JUVENILES EN ESPANOL |
| ⑥ | VIDEOS | ⑱ | 'IMAGINATION' ART PROJECT
NOBUHO NAGASWA |
| ⑦ | REFERENCE BOOKS | ⑲ | PUBLIC TELEPHONE |
| ⑧ | LIBROS EN ESPANOL | ⑳ | WATER FOUNTAIN |
| ⑨ | BLACK HISTORY COLLECTION | ㉑ | WOMEN'S REST ROOM |
| ⑩ | ADULT FICTION | ㉒ | MEN'S REST ROOM |
| ⑪ | ADULT NON FICTION | ㉓ | BOOK DROP |
| ⑫ | YOUNG ADULT AREA | ㉔ | ELEVATOR |

MAYOR OF LOS ANGELES
Richard J. Riordan

COUNCILMEMBER - NINTH DISTRICT
Rita Walters

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Carmen Martinez

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF BRANCHES
Fontayne Holmes

PRINCIPAL LIBRARIAN
BRANCH CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS
Juliana Cheng

CENTRAL/SOUTHERN REGIONAL MANAGER
Barbara Clark

BRANCH LIBRARIAN
Rathna Jacob

ACTING BRANCH LIBRARIAN
Lucille Vestal

LIBRARY STAFF
Vilma Flores, Messenger Clerk
Francisco Gonzalez, Messenger Clerk/Computer Aide
Jose Gutierrez, Messenger Clerk
Gilbert Jones, Clerk Typist
David Phipps, Young Adult Librarian
LaTrenda Washington, Messenger Clerk/Computer Aide