

"To Administrative Staff
From Bob Reagan
Date 1/14/94

THE
EAGLE ROCK



Sentinel

25 cents

URBAN NEWSPAPERS OF LOS ANGELES

Wednes



Staff photo by THOM WRIGHT
Oliva Cueva-Fernandez, Los Angeles City Library Commissioner, Rosemary Lopez, a deputy for Supervisor Gloria Molina, Parker C. Anderson, from the city Community Development Department, Elizabeth Martinez, City Librarian, Bette McDonough, branch librarian, Councilman Mike Hernandez and Angie Jauregui, from the Friends of La Biblioteca del Pueblo de Lincoln Heights, show an artist rendering of the renovated La Biblioteca del Pueblo de Lincoln Heights. The \$3 million project got underway Monday, with an expected completion date of the Summer of 1995.

LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY
LINCOLN HEIGHTS BRANCH

City renovates Lincoln Heights library

By Thom Wright
Staff Writer

A cornerstone of the Lincoln Heights community since 1916 will soon be returning — The Biblioteca del Pueblo de Lincoln Heights Branch of the Los Angeles Public Library.

The library was both a source of information and an architectural work of art in the community, but time and increased safety standards took its toll and the library was closed in 1990.

But community activists and political leaders, like Supervisor Gloria Molina and Councilman Mike Hernandez refused to let the building fade away and on Monday, the renovation of the historic build-

After three year closure, renovation of the Biblioteca del Pueblo de Lincoln Heights got underway, Monday. Library will be expanded, modernized and made earthquake safe.

ing, 2530 Workman St., began.

Besides reinforcing the structure to meet current earthquake standards, the library will be renovated, and 2,000-square-feet of space will be added. It will be made accessible to the disabled, air-conditioned, carpeted, and will have increased electrical capacity to accommodate modern library technology, including LAPL's new automated circulation system and computerized catalog, which provides information about books available within the Los Angeles Public Library sys-

tem. The Biblioteca del Pueblo de Lincoln Heights Branch Library project is funded through Proposition #1, the 1989 Library Bond Issue; the Library Services and Construction Act; and a Housing and Community Development Block Grant.

Generations of library users were on hand to celebrate the groundbreaking and they related memories of the library.

Lincoln Heights Chamber of Commerce president Roy Wolze

said the library not only helped his children to reach college, he credits the Lincoln Heights Library with his business success.

"After World War II, my brother and I came to California and observed the shortages in building materials, we came to this library and found lumber in Washington, nails in Kansas and pipes in New York," Wolze said.

Besides telling them where products were in abundant supply, the library also provided them with con-

tacts and enabled them to order, the material, Wolze said.

Hernandez called the library a door that opens in the world and that this library would always be a focal point for the community.

Elizabeth Martinez, the Los Angeles City Librarian, said there is no alternative to a public library.

Sixth-grader Duy Tran, called books a treasure and promised that he would use the library as soon as it was completed.

Hernandez said 18 months seems like a long time, but he will work to ensure that the project proceeds smoothly.