

LOS FELIZ BRANCH LIBRARY

by Pearl Yonezawa, Senior Librarian

The Los Feliz Branch first opened in 1923 and became part of the Los Angeles public Library in 1924. The branch was located at that time on Vermont Avenue. In subsequent years it moved to many locations throughout the community.

In 1950 the branch was moved to a storefront at 1939 Hillhurst Avenue, where its book collection and usage increased steadily. By 1978 the branch had expanded into a number of adjacent spaces and was now 1000 square feet.

The Library department, the Friends of Los Feliz Library, community members, elected officials and the Board of Library Commissioners began developing plans for a permanent facility. In 1994 the Northridge Earthquake caused the branch to close on north Hillhurst. A temporary leased space at 1801, in the vacant Yellow Ribbon Market space, was opened a year later and funding was provided for a new building by the Library Bond Proposition #1 in 1989.

Architect Barton Phelps designed the new 10,500 square-foot building on the corner of Hillhurst and Franklin Avenues. The new facility opened on April 8th as Junior Girl Scout troop #864 and the Thomas Starr King Middle School Drill Team



About 500 opening day ceremony attendees spill out of the official tent onto Franklin Avenue while waiting for the doors to finally open

lead dignitaries including mayor Richard Riordan, Councilman John Ferraro and City Librarian Susan Kent into the new building. The John Marshall High School Brass Quintet played a lively fanfare, the ribbon was cut, and the community poured into their new library. Patrons were greeted by the music of the Kirk Smart Trio, flowers and refreshments donated by over 25 members of the Los Feliz Village Business Association (BID) hot drinks from Peet's Coffee & Tea and storytellers from all over the Hollywood Area Libraries.

The library has a collection of over 45,000 books, special areas for children and teens, the Helen Bernstein meeting Room, named in honor of the late member of the Board of Library Commissioners, and the Leonardo Di Caprio Computer Center. There are Virtual Library workstations funded by the Walt Disney Company Foundation, "Adopt-a-Branch" program and regularly scheduled programs for children, teens adults and families.

The library is located at 1874 Hillhurst Avenue at the corner of Franklin Avenue. The hours are Mondays and Tuesdays from 12:30 to 8:00, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 12:30 to 5:30, Fridays and Saturdays from 10:00 to 5:30 and closed on Sundays and holidays. The telephone number remains (323) 913-4710.

Come visit the new building and enjoy the rich, warm redwood walls, bright window seats and the beautiful Cultural Affairs funded Public Artwork, the "Conjunction of 500 Wishes" by local artist Joyce Dahl.

The Los Feliz Branch is part of the Los Angeles Public Library system and is located in the Fourth Council District represented by Councilman John Ferraro.

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