

For Immediate Release  
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## **San José's New and Enlarged Carnegie Library Opens** *Community Celebration Marks New Era for Historic Library*

SAN JOSE, CALIF. – Eastside residents joined city and library officials today to celebrate the grand opening of the new, expanded East San José Carnegie Branch Library. The historic structure, which is both the oldest public library and the only remaining Carnegie Library serving in Santa Clara County, begins its second century of service with a tastefully designed addition that increases available space by about 60 percent. Following a brief dedication ceremony, visitors were free to explore the new spaces, check out library materials and enjoy free entertainment.

“The new East San José Carnegie Branch Library is going to be a valuable community resource for people of all ages,” said Mayor Chuck Reed. “Thanks to our residents’ support, San Jose has been able to build new branch libraries throughout the city.”

The new library—designed by Gould Evans, Inc. (San Francisco, CA) and constructed by Farotte Construction Co. Inc. (Gilroy, CA)—preserves the original Carnegie structure while incorporating features that have become standard for all new library construction in San José. The 10,500 sq. ft. branch library replaces the previous 7,281 sq. ft. facility at the same address (1102 E. Santa Clara St.), itself the product of an earlier expansion completed in 1981. Highlights of the new East San José Carnegie Library include an Internet café, community living room with a fireplace, technology center, group and quiet study areas, and a community room that accommodates 33 persons, as well as significantly more space inside for seating, collections and computers. The project was completed on time and on budget.

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“Libraries are a place where people of all ages can come together and explore new worlds and new ideas through joy of reading,” said Councilmember Sam Liccardo. “This is a great day for downtown residents as we celebrate the beginning of construction on a library that will be a legacy to our entire community.”

Public art for the project by Joyce Culter Shaw (San Diego, CA) consists of three components. *Lightlines*, a reflective light sculpture fabricated from aluminum coils, is suspended from the building's ceiling trusses in and around the main entrance and east/west hallway. The artist worked with the community to identify neighborhood imagery, creating a visual vocabulary she calls the *East San José Carnegie Calligraphy*. These images, rendered in laser cut iridescent acrylic, are suspended from the aluminum coils. *Wall of Birds in Flight* is an installation on the west wall of the children's area that contains images of local birds in silhouette, back-lit and in flight, bringing natural elements of the outdoor environment—the neighborhood's abundant bird life—indoors.

East San José Carnegie Branch Library is the fourteenth branch library bond project to be completed. The Branch Library Bond Measure, approved in November 2000, provides \$212 million over ten years dedicated to the construction of six new and fourteen expanded branch libraries in San José. All but one of the planned projects are now at some stage of design or construction or have been completed. Visit [www.newsanjoselibraries.com](http://www.newsanjoselibraries.com) for updates on San Jose branch library development.

East San José Carnegie Library, located at 1102 E. Santa Clara Street, is open Monday, 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.; and Thursday through Saturday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. For information, call (408) 808-8075.

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