



330 Park Blvd. • 619-236-5800

Monday ..... 11:30 AM – 8 PM  
 Tuesday ..... 11:30 AM – 8 PM  
 Wednesday ..... 9:30 AM – 6 PM  
 Thursday ..... 9:30 AM – 6 PM  
 Friday ..... 9:30 AM – 6 PM  
 Saturday ..... 9:30 AM – 6 PM  
 Sunday ..... 1 PM – 5 PM

[sandiegolibrary.org](http://sandiegolibrary.org)

[sdpubliclibrary](#)  
[sandiegocentrallibrary](#)



**Self-Guided Tours**  
[mysdpl.org/centraltours](http://mysdpl.org/centraltours)

### Education and Lifelong Literacy

SDPL's mission is to inspire lifelong learning through connections to knowledge and each other. The award-winning READ/San Diego Adult Literacy Program offers one-on-one tutoring for adults and provides the Families for Literacy program, designed to break the cycle of intergenerational low literacy.

The 1000 Books before Kindergarten, My First Library Card and Student EXCEL Card programs cultivate a love of reading and continue educational support throughout their academic career. Students 19 and older can expand their education and career opportunities through the free, online Adult High School Diploma Program.

### Digital Access at SDPL

Access to technology is a lifeline. SDPL offers broadband Wi-Fi, hotspots and laptops for users to check out. Local organizations provide basic training for computers, mobile devices, internet safety and more. These resources, materials and workshops are designed to close the digital equity gap.

### Economic and Workforce Development

Jobseekers looking for employment resources and resume help can use SDPL's eLibrary to access career assistance and explore career choices. The StartUp at San Diego Central Library offers small business resources, provides networking opportunities and houses the Patent and Trademark Resource Center.

### IDEA Labs | Innovate · Discover · Experience · Achieve

IDEA Labs are the public makerspaces of SDPL. They provide a space where patrons make creative projects through a DIY approach, direct experimentation and collaboration. Resources include 3D printers, sewing machines, laser printers, design software and audio recording equipment. Select IDEA Labs include Digital Memory Lab transfer stations and provide tools to digitize personal artifacts like photographs, film, audio and video.

### A Hub for Cultural and Civic Activity

SDPL is the largest provider of free cultural programming in the region, including concerts, performances and art exhibitions throughout the City.

The Visual Arts Program provides access and connection to the arts and culture landscape in San Diego, offering unique opportunities to local and regional artists. Featured exhibitions can be viewed at Central Library's Judith Harris Art Gallery. Rotating exhibitions by local artists, creative groups and hobbyists are displayed at several library locations throughout the year.

The City Heights Performance Annex stands out as the only black box venue owned and operated by the City of San Diego. The Performance Annex has a multimedia studio for community training and production and works with local organizations to host free performing arts workshops, shows and festivals.

### Library Advocacy

Library Foundation SD is a catalyst for creating stronger communities through investment in San Diego Public Library. Working within the community, Library Foundation SD advocates and raises funds to provide access to resources supporting literacy, work readiness and lifelong learning. [libraryfoundationsd.org](http://libraryfoundationsd.org)

Friends of the San Diego Public Library is an organization of volunteers who support library services and programs through various activities including books sales and fundraising events. [friendsofsdpl.org](http://friendsofsdpl.org)

**SAN  
 DIEGO  
 CENTRAL  
 LIBRARY  
 @ JOAN  
 A JACOBS  
 COMMON**

**INSPIRATION**

**DISCOVERY**

**OPPORTUNITY**





# TOURING THE CENTRAL LIBRARY

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**DOMES**  
The latticework dome, 143 feet in diameter, consists of eight steel-mesh "sails" tied together by cable and pipe grids. Aluminum panels weighing a total of 32,000 pounds cover the dome and provide shade to the three-story windows in the Helen Price Reading Room.



**HERVEY FAMILY RARE BOOK ROOM**  
Styled after a 19th century private library, this space houses the Wangenheim Collection of rare materials that showcases the evolution of books. Collection items include Babylonian clay tablets, fore-edge paintings, illuminated manuscripts and more.



**ART ON DISPLAY**  
The Judith Harris Art Gallery highlights the region's cultural landscape with multiple exhibitions throughout the year. Central Library is also the largest display of City-owned artwork, featuring more than 150 pieces from the Civic Art Collection and four works created for Central Library. (Photo: Stacey Keck)



**HELEN PRICE READING ROOM**  
A glass-walled reading room housed below the dome anchors the architect's vision of Central Library as a cultural "penthouse" for the public. Sweeping views look out towards Coronado Bridge.

## ALICE AND DOUG DIAMOND ROCK GARDEN | STAIRWAY TO SOMEWHERE

Two architectural features visible from the 5th floor Jaffe Mountain View Reading Room. The scenic artwork of the rock garden resembles various terrains, flowing water and geologic formations. The inaccessible stairs function as an art piece intended to invoke a sense of becoming, a theme of perpetual growth, as imagined by the architect. Collection and four works created for Central Library.

Doors in the lobby and auditorium can be opened to create a continuous space through the open-air courtyard.



**ARCHWAY**  
A three-story gravity arch in the lobby invokes the landmark arches of the Cabrillo Bridge in Balboa Park. (Photo: Steve Simpson)

**CONCRETE WORK**  
Builders used concrete to create the illusion of stone construction in the library. Constructing the library required 43,000 cubic yards of concrete—enough to pave a 3-foot-wide sidewalk from the library to Disneyland and back. This work was recognized by the American Society of Concrete Contractors for its craftsmanship, functionality and creativity.



**DENNY SANFORD CHILDREN'S LIBRARY**  
A Dr. Seuss-themed space that is the home of the Binford I CAN, Too! Center for youth with special learning needs.



**EAST ARCADE**  
The Park Boulevard side of the library features windows shaped like open books with non-reflective glass that allows for viewing into the 1st floor reading areas. (Photo: Steve Simpson)

## San Diego Central Library @ Joan A Jacobs Common

San Diego Central Library @ Joan A Irwin Jacobs Common opened in 2013 to better serve the growing City and replace the previous library built in 1954. This nine-story building features an extensive collection of materials, with diverse spaces for reading, art, performance and community engagement.

Designed by local architect, Rob Quigley, features of this library include the iconic dome, three-story gravity arch in the lobby and rooftop spaces overlooking downtown.

San Diego Public Library, established in 1882, consists of 37 locations throughout the City and is the place for opportunity, discovery and inspiration.

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## INFORMATION BY FLOOR

### Genealogy, San Diego History and Special Collections

**Judith Harris Art Gallery and Valeiras Sculpture Garden**  
A contemporary gallery and courtyard that features the work of regional artists.

**Hervey Family Rare Books Room**

**Katie and Dan Sullivan Library Commission Room**

**Shiley Special Events Suite**

A rentable space with panoramic views of San Diego Bay and downtown San Diego.

**Marilyn and Gene Marx Special Collections Center**

### Art, Music and Recreation

**Helen Price Reading Room**

**Sullivan Family Baseball Research Center**  
Home of the largest baseball research collection outside the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY. The collection is a collaboration between SDPL and the Ted Williams Chapter of the Society for American Baseball Research.

**READ/San Diego | Mae Bell Page Literacy Services**

The home of San Diego's award-winning literacy program for adults. It contains a computer lab, study spaces and resources for learners, tutors and families participating in the program.

### e3 Civic High School (inaccessible)

A public charter high school in San Diego Unified School District that operates as a school within a library.

### History, Geography, Biography and Travel

**Virtual Travel Center**

An open gathering space for book clubs, Local Author Program events, displaying travel media and more.

**Career Center**

### Literature

**IDEA Lab**

A makerspace with a variety of machines, tools, computers and software to encourage creativity and innovation.

**Wells Fargo Technology Learning Center**

### Newspapers and periodicals

**Government Documents**

A regional repository for federal, state and local records that houses 1.6 million documents.

**The StartUp**

A community coworking space and home of the library's Patent and Trademark Resource Center with business-focused resources for entrepreneurs.

**Veterans Resource Center**

**Mental Health Services**

### Business, Science and Industry

**Pauline Foster Teen Center**

**Union Bank Homework Center**

A place for homework help, seasonal camps and skill-building activities for students, run by Do Your Homework @ the Library.

### Customer Service, Book Shops, Popular and Children's Libraries

**Denny Sanford Children's Library**

**OliverMcMillan I CAN! Center**

A center for persons with disabilities that provides services, programs, adaptive devices and professional assistance.

**Donald C. and Elizabeth Dickinson Popular Library**

**Friends of the San Diego Central Library Used Book Store Library Shop**  
Find well-curated reads and gifts for library lovers. Run by Library Foundation SD, its proceeds support the library.

**Neil Morgan Auditorium**

Housed in its own building across the garden courtyard, this theater and performing arts space derives its name from an award-winning San Diego journalist.