

Redondo Beach Historic Library Community Center

Spring 2022

During the pandemic, the previous commercial lease on the Historic Library Community Center in Veterans Park expired, and the vendor elected not to pursue a renewed contract and vacated the facility. This facility is a historic landmark of over 11,000 square feet with three levels, ocean views and a full kitchen. The Redondo Beach Recreation & Parks Commission has been engaging with the community and other city commissions to solicit input on how the facility should be used in the future.



Results from the community survey included the following (312 responses):

- 91% of respondents were residents of Redondo Beach
- On average, approximately 75% of respondents were relatively familiar with the facility
- 50% of respondents have attended an event or activity at the facility before

Survey results included the following most popular themes:

- An overwhelming desire to utilize the facility in a way that would provide it for events or meetings at a low cost for residents;
- Utilization of the facility with an art-focus such as a gallery, museum, and/or sculpture garden
- Utilization of the facility as a café or restaurant that would extend to an outdoor patio or picnic space.

For amenities, the following were the top preferences:

- An outdoor patio space and a performance area/bandshell were the two most desired new amenities
- A traditional community center and a pop-up space for rotating uses were the two most preferred facility uses
- Other uses such as an art museum, an art gallery, café or daily food service, and a rental facility for private events were relatively equal in score thereafter.

The survey and potential uses for the facility were discussed at the Recreation & Parks Commission meeting on April 13, 2022. In order to gather additional input, this topic was to be discussed at the Public Art Commission meeting on May 25, but that meeting was canceled. A special meeting has been scheduled for the Public Art Commission for June 1, agenda TBD. The Recreation & Parks Commission is scheduled to present its findings and recommendations at the upcoming City Council meeting on June 7, 2022. The purpose of discussing this item at the Library Commission meeting on June 6 is to:

- Decide whether to come up with a Library Commission recommendation for all or part of the future use of the facility
- If a recommendation will be made, prepare to present the recommendation during the public comments portion of this agenda item at the June 7, 2022 City Council meeting.

There were a few survey responses which did not make the top items noted above, but are relevant to this Library Commission:

- Restore it to a public library
- Provide a library outpost or kiosk for book checkout/pickup
- Benches for resting and reading in the outdoor area
- Book and poetry readings
- City museum and reading room
- Restore the original reading area by the ocean front windows
- Reading areas and meditation quiet room
- A little book store/gift shop
- Food service like the Huntington Library (High Tea)
- Small children's museum or children's library
- Story time events
- Community co-working / studying space

What follows are some images of the facility, taken during the open house on April 27, 2022.

Main entrance



South facing exterior



Main lobby ground floor



Ocean view from ground floor



Built in shelving on upper floor



Staircase down to south facing side room on ground floor



Subterranean dressing room



Subterranean Kitchen



Commercial appliances



Kitchen prep area



Outside patio which is kitchen adjacent



Outdoor memorial bench

