The Right To Know

"Where There Is No Vision The People Perish"

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LIBRARY BOARD

Dr. Richard Altimari
Charlene Bauer
David Wickersham
Chairman
Jacqueline Schmidt
George Williams
CITY COUNCIL

Henry H. Duke
Ted W. Bartlett
Norma Brandel Gibbs
Mayor Alvin M. Coen
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David D. Rowlands Administrator

OFFICIALS
WALTER JOHNSON  We have built for ourselves, our children and for thousands of residents yet to come a magnificent building to house and disseminate information in mankind's effort to dispel ignorance and to promote enrichment of every life.

The opportunity to assist in the presentation of this Huntington Beach Library, Information and Cultural Resource Center to the citizens of this city carries with it a sense of fulfillment for I know that while we are justly proud of what we have accomplished for today, this magnificent building and its facilities will be appreciated by many future generations.

Just as we have inherited the benefit to the community of the libraries of the past in this and other communities, so too will generations to come inherit the benefit of the wisdom of this generation in causing this library to be built.

Libraries are not just reservoirs of knowledge, but rather fountains which bubble forth benefit far in excess of the resources expended for construction and for collections of books and other instructional materials.

As the sparkling sprays splash from the fountains within and outside the library, so should ideas pour from this library, rippling out with others in a cascade of new and exciting concepts.

This resource center can and will become the inspirational fountain for other sparkling cultural aspirations including an auditorium, a theatre and an art gallery that will flow into place in time.

Opening this center can be but the first of a tide of activities that re-emphasize that libraries indeed are not simply reservoirs, but truly fountains.
DION NEUTRA The architectural firm of Richard and Dion Neutra celebrates its 50th anniversary in continuous practice in 1976, the year marking the 200th birthday of the United States.

This experience was teamed with that of the general contractors Swinerton and Walberg, a firm which traces its experience in the construction field for nearly a hundred years and enjoys a reputation as one of the oldest licensed contractors in California.

The architect, in consultation with the three-member committee of city councilmen designated as a liaison group, the Library Board and the library director developed a comprehensive program for the library project in 1970.

This comprehensive program envisioned a total cultural and informational center complex which would form the nucleus of culture in the community. The library itself forms the center of the group and has masterplanned within it several wings which can readily be added as Huntington Beach grows to its projected capacity in years to come.

Huntington Beach Library Information and Cultural Resource Center is the culmination of the ideas and experiences of a host of people who have been vitally concerned with a library for the city. Desire, coupled with a drive to make dreams come true, has brought the community to the point of dedication for this new building.

At the same time the new facility is a beginning, not just of service to the community in loaning books, as valuable as that service certainly is, but the beginning of a cultural movement which can change the image of the entire community.
**SETTINGS**

The new library complex of Huntington Beach is located in the midst of a glorious 200-acre Central Park. We have, by all technical means at our disposal, allowed the park to penetrate and flow through the new library structure with the greatest possible contact with nature.

Quite contrary to the limitations imposed by most urban surroundings, this library site was originally chosen with a conviction that views, both near and far, should dictate the conceptual approach, and this was the challenge to be met by the new design.

**BOLD GLAZED PAVILION**

In response to this challenge, I conceived a simple bold glazed pavilion placed at a high point in the park, basically only two stories in height, sheathed in reflective glass so as to mirror the surrounding park landscape, as well as exclude undesirable sun rays.

The idea was to place all readers in the outer portion of the floor area and concentrate the bulk of the book collection in a multi-tiered central core brilliantly illuminated and open on all sides to the spacious interior, housing planting, water-play, and a light, airy infusion of natural daylight, by skylighting.

Concern for the welfare of users and inhabitants of the designed environment has characterized the writings and works of Richard and Dion Neutra over the past half-century. During this long period of practice, it has been increasingly apparent to us that for greatest comfort, man needs a dynamic and changing environment to enhance vitality, rather than only a purely static, well-lighted air-conditioned space.

By collecting the book storage at the center of the building, a very compact arrangement has been achieved, saving approximately 30 percent in the required floor area to be consumed. The main entrance is located at the upper of two major levels with a circular ramp leading to the lower floor and access provided to all principal levels by means of ramps or an elevator.

The middle level of the stacks coincides with the main level of the library, and other stack levels are only eight-feet removed. Storage for about 70,000 volumes is provided on each of the stack levels.

**PLAN EXPANSION**

Bearing in mind that some users of the ultimate “Cultural Resource Complex” may initially have to be housed here, as well as the advancing “state of the art” in the role of the library in the community, we have planned for possible expansions in several directions, anticipating as yet unforeseen developments in library science. These additions have been planned to be made according to a master plan in a logical and consistent manner without detracting from the over-all simple, direct, impressive basic structure.

The building is especially memorable at night, when the stack area with its lighting forms the major source of illumination of the glazed pavilion sitting on the hill and reflected in the foreground waters as seen from the west. The waters of Talbert Lake are drawn closer to the complex by the use of informal ponds, streams and water-filled roofs which infuse the entire park area with the magic reflective qualities of nature’s horizontal mirrors.

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Signed:

Dion Neutra
HUNTINGTON BEACH LIBRARY
INFORMATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCE CENTER
DEDICATION PROGRAM
Saturday, April 5, 1975

1:30 p.m.
Band Prelude ........................................ Huntington Beach Community Concert Band
Call to Order ........................................... Master of Ceremonies, David Wickersham
Library Board Chairman
Flag Presentation ................................. Bicentennial Commission
Acceptance ........................................ Walter W. Johnson
Librarian
Raising of Colors ................................. Boy Scout Troop 1
National Anthem ................................. Concert Band
Pledge of Allegiance ............................. Olga Wrobel
Invocation ........................................ Henry Kaufman
Former Councilman
Musical Response ................................. Concert Band
Master of Ceremonies ........................... David Wickersham
Introductions and Acknowledgements
Presentation of Keys to Building ............... Architect, Dion Neutra
Acceptance Address ............................... Mayor Alvin M. Coen
Dedickey Address ................................. Leonard Shane
Benediction ........................................ Conductor, Jewish Federation of Orange County
Postlude ........................................... Concert Band
BEGINNING — From the beginning the Huntington Beach Public Library has been an illustration of citizen concern for the community and its future generations.

Shortly before the city was incorporated February, 1909, the possibility of opening a library was brought to the attention of the Board of Trade by two citizens, R.W. Blodget and Mrs. R.H. Lindgren.

Efforts of these two citizens aroused the interest of some local organizations and the Huntington Beach Womens Club called a mass meeting on February 15, 1909, to form a library association.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

This meeting resulted in a temporary organization being established and Mr. Blodget was asked to draw up a constitution and by-laws for the new organization. The first board of trustees consisted of Mr. A.W. Everett, Mrs. C.D. Heartwell, Mrs. Mary Manske, Miss Alma Wilson and Mr. A.L. Reed. Each member of this board represented a different group or interest in the city.

Once the Public Library Association was established, friends in the community began giving books and other necessary things and a home for the new library became a problem. The board decided to buy an old office building which was to be moved and Mr. Reed guaranteed payment of $50 for the roofless building. Mr. S.E. Hearn agreed to allow the board to move the building to a lot at the corner of Walnut Avenue and Main Street for a nominal rent charge.

Community involvement in the new library was particularly noteworthy during this period. During the time the citizens and the library trustees were busy readying the new library the city was officially incorporated and a board of trustees, the forerunner of today’s city council, was elected.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

On June 14, 1909, the president of the Public Library Association, Mr. Everett, appeared before the city board and offered to turn over the library to the city. The subsequent agreement called for the city to set aside $300 for the immediate use of the library, to assume its debts and to support the library with tax funds.

After Mr. Everett’s appearance before the board, the city governing body enacted Ordinance 18, which established a public library. At this time the city’s board chairman, Ed Manning, appointed the first library board of trustees. Members of the first board were Mr. Everett, president; Mrs. Lindgren, secretary; Mrs. Manske; Mrs. Blodget; and Ida Vincent.

FIRST LIBRARIAN

Shortly after the city acquired the new library, Elizabeth Singleton and two assistant librarians from Long Beach came to the city and cataloged the books free of charge. Their lunches and traveling expenses were provided by the Library Board of Trustees.

Edith Brown of Long Beach became the first city librarian in July, 1909. At that time there were 338 volumes in the library, 228 were gifts while 110 had been bought new. The
new library subscribed to twelve magazines and held hours of 10 a.m. to noon and 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

In August, Mr. Hearn, owner of the property where the library was located, notified the Library Board that the library had to move by the end of the year. In January, 1911, the library was moved to the intersection of Walnut Avenue and 3rd Street.

MANY IMPROVEMENTS

Miss Andrews was granted a leave of absence from her librarian's job in March, 1911, and when she failed to return, Bertha Proctor was permanently appointed to take her place in May. At that time the librarian's salary was $35 per month.

During the next few months there were many improvements to the library building and its surroundings but it was becoming more apparent that the need for a permanent library building was surfacing. The Huntington Beach Company offered the city a site provided a $5,000 building was erected on the property. The Library Board began looking for the means to accomplish such an endeavor but the project was temporarily abandoned when no funds could be located.

COUNCIL AIDS

After some discussion, the Library Board decided to purchase four lots on the corner of Walnut Avenue and 8th Street at a cost of $1900. The Library Board was able to come up with all but $300, so the City Council provided the extra money and by May, 1913, the city had acquired a site for the proposed library.

Once the lots were clear and title was given to the city the Library Board in cooperation with the City Council, the Huntington Beach Women's Club and the Parent Teacher Association began gathering the necessary data to obtain a Carnegie Library building.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY

In February, 1913, councilmen received notification of the $10,000 grant and they notified the Library Board to begin discussing plans for the new library.

In August, 1913, the Carnegie Corporation accepted the plans and W. D. Lambert of Long Beach received the contract. The cornerstone of the Carnegie Library was laid during a big ceremony. The history of the city, the library, names of all those who had served on the Library Board, city trustees, pastors of the churches, members of the Board of Trade, names of those who had served on the library staff, the name of each child in the schools and a small American flag were enclosed in the stone.

In a little over four years the number of volumes in the library had risen from 328 volumes to 2800 volumes, 700 of which were donated by residents of the city.

The main floor of the new Carnegie Library housed an adult reading room, a children's department and the librarian's office. The lecture room, a reference room and the furnace room were located downstairs. The Chamber of Commerce was located in the lecture room until 1921.

In order to be more responsive to community needs the Library Board decided to establish a reading room at 205 Main Street. The reading room was open the same hours as
the main library, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. The reading room was used for a three-year period from 1928 until August, 1931.

**EARTHQUAKE DAMAGE**

In March, 1933, the Carnegie Library suffered considerable damage in the great earthquake which struck the area. The board authorized Catching Brothers Company to make the necessary repairs to the Carnegie building.

1934 saw the library lose its librarian of 23 years when Bertha Reynolds (formerly Proctor) resigned. She had seen the library grow from the small building at Walnut Avenue and 3rd Street to the Carnegie Building at Walnut Avenue and 8th Street, and now the library was outgrowing that facility.

A preliminary set of plans was submitted to the Library Board by Architects McClelland, McDonald, and Markwith of Los Angeles, but the advent of World War II held up construction until 1949.

Margaret Kemp served as temporary librarian until Floyd Jorgensen filled the job in 1937. When he left for the military, Lylyan Mossinger took over and served until 1959.

On Friday, July 13, 1951, the Carnegie Library closed its doors after almost 40 years of service. When the doors closed, the library had a total of 42,000 volumes.

On Sunday, September 30, 1951, the new library building at 526 Main Street was dedicated by Mayor Vernon Langenbeck. The library was built at a cost of $140,000. Members of the Library Board at the time of dedication were Pearl M. Jones, president, Berta Tovatt, J. K. McDonald, Edith Vavra, and G. H. Hasson.

The new Huntington Beach Library started its existence in 1967 when the Librarian Walter Johnson created a program citing the library needs for a growing community and the library board selected the Talbert Avenue site. The City Council then decided to place the library program on the ballot.

The issue failed on the election held on November 5, 1968. With approximately 62 percent of the vote in favor of the library, however, the council decided to fund the project through the creation of a Public Facilities Corporation and created a five-man corporation for this purpose.

The same body represented the city for the new Civic Center. Members are Dr. Dudley Boyce, Darrell Ward, Robert Polly, William Armstrong and Larry Curran.

**HIRE NEUTRA**

Library Board members, wanting a first hand view, toured libraries in California that had recently been constructed and were of similar size. The board developed a list of some 35 architects that they were interested in considering and eventually narrowed it down to 17 whom they invited in for interviews.

Of the 17, the firm of Richard & Dion Neutra was asked to design the library. Shortly before the actual signing of the agreement, Richard Neutra passed away while on tour and his son, Dion, was retained to design the project.

The site had been selected because of its centralized location, both geographically and by population, and because of the natural beauty surrounding it. A ten-acre plot of land was purchased for the site, including part of Talbert Lake, and the ground breaking ceremony took place on October 28, 1972.
SPLENDOR — Concrete and glass, enhanced by fountains and flowers will be further beautified by sculptures such as “Fluid,” a 2,000 pound work in steel by Laguna Beach Sculptor Harold Pastorius, Jr. The award-winning artist is among the first to have works on display at the new library.
DAVID WICKERSHAM  Looking over the past years that this library has been under consideration and construction, I remember the many hours and people it took to get this dedication date.

There have been happy and sad times but most of all each step has been gratifying. The selection of the site and its beautiful surroundings. The choosing of an architecture which would reflect the many moods of the sky, ocean, lakes and trees we overlook. The development of the internal functions so that we could expand with new and innovative services for a young and growing community.

Then to see the first shovel of dirt turned, making the start of a new era and the beginning of what was once only a dream. Now that April 5th, 1975 is here it pleases me to see what dreams can turn into.

Hopefully because of the efforts of many, some new idea or dream will spring forth from within these glass walls and we will embark on a new road to provide for the needs of our future generations.
READER SERVICES—Huntington Beach Library offers a number of special services, both information services and equipment services. Several information services stem from the cooperative efforts of all of the libraries in Orange County. Two cooperative units, the Santiago Library System (SLS) and Libraries of Orange County Network (LOCNET) enable the library to provide expanded book borrowing privileges.

COOPERATIVE SERVICES

Through these two units, the Huntington Beach Library card is honored in almost every library in Orange County and the Reference Department has access to a state-funded reference center, the Southern California Answering Network (SCAN).

These cooperatives also provide quick and easy access to books not owned by Huntington Beach but available throughout the county or even the state by using a Western Union Twx communication system to speed the inter-library loan borrowing.

The library also has a number of its own special services. The Orange County Genealogical Society collection is housed in the Huntington Beach Library. A Community Resource file contains the names of local specialists who can and do aid the library in searching for information in their special fields.

A paperback exchange operates in all the branches of the library. Plans are being made for a community referral service to aid people in contacting the agencies and finding the services they need to help with personal or family problems.

In addition to special information services, the library also has special equipment it makes available to the public. Four different types of micro-print readers are available: one for both 16mm and 35mm micro-film; and three for various reductions of micro-fiche, one of which may be taken home. An Optiscop, a machine which magnifies normal print for people with vision problems, is available at the Central Library. Xerox machines and electric typewriters are also available.

DOZENS OF SOURCES

Dozens of pleasure and information sources are available through the Huntington Beach Public Library and Cultural Resource Center.

Books — Fiction or non-fiction collection compares with other libraries, college or city. Periodicals — over 750 titles, some dating back to the 19th century. Government Documents.

Foreign Language Books — French, German, Spanish. Newspapers — among them the New York Times since 1851, the Huntington Beach News since 1905.

A pamphlet file containing drawings of information on the city of Huntington Beach and the County of Orange.


REFERENCE DEPARTMENT

The Reference Department, consisting of four professional librarians, the information service center of the library, seeks to provide information to all the citizens of Huntington Beach whenever they need it.
The natural curiosity of a child and his freedom of expression are encouraged through non-restrictive loan policies.
The center's early childhood education area contains over 3,000 picture books and many easy readers to delight young children, parents and pre-school teachers.
A conversation pit in the area will be used for stories told to groups on tour of the library such as Campfire Girls or Boy Scout troops.

**STORY HOURS**
Weekly elementary and pre-school story sessions will be held in the Balboa Room, which overlooks the library's unique fountain and planter ramp. The Balboa Room which contains a motorized screen will also be used for library orientation of school classes and may also be reserved for public meetings.

Among the items available for loan from the children's resource center are books, cassettes, records, filmstrips, encyclopedias, toys and games, flannel board stories, picture stories, pamphlets and magazines.

Reading and personal enrichment for children through 6th grade are encouraged through the center's special programs. Everyone is invited to the weekly pre-school and elementary level story hours, summer reading and film programs, and special events such as the annual Winnie-the-Pooh and Laura Ingalls Wilder parties.

**PARENTS COLLECTION**
A special collection designed especially for parents is available in the children's resource center. They will find books in the "How To Parent" collection to assist them with child rearing, adoption, sibling rivalry, explaining the facts of life and other things.

Young adults will find the Youth Activities Room a place of fun and recreation during a study break. Pool tables, ping pong, records, games and paperbacks will invite them into the new library. Once there, they will also find many fiction books labeled "YP" in the adult collection appropriate to their interests.

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES**
The children's resource center provides a warm, pleasant and stimulating atmosphere of varied materials which encourage the child to expand his knowledge of the world around him.

Many avenues of exploration will be open to him, including reading, educational toys, multi-media items, and special learning materials normally not found in a public library. In the resource center children will be free to read, explore, and take home any of the stimulating learning and recreational materials provided, such as microscopes.
MEDIA SERVICES

The Media Center of the Huntington Beach Public Library has grown in the past few years as the demand for audio-visual materials has increased.

Included within the center's current collection are 16mm, 8mm and super 8mm films, film loops, film strips, slides, cassettes and records. Projectors and cassette units are available on a loan basis to city residents for a minimum fee.

As a member of two film circuits, the Media Center is able to maintain freshness in the 16mm film collection. Each month the center receives about 35 films from the Public Library Film Circuit and another 40 through the Santiago Library System which stay in the center for two months.

In keeping with the center's policy of providing the fullest amount of patron service, a number of new media facilities have been provided at the new library.

FILM AND TV VIEWING

Motorized screens are located in many areas of the new library. These areas can be scheduled for group showings of the center's audio-visual materials. A preview room is also available for pre-screening any of the films from the center's vast collection.

FM stereo listening posts are located on all reading levels of the new library. The listening posts are located in carrels which are identified by a switch box on top. Quality headsets may be checked out at the Media Center desk.

The entire library has been wired for video reception. Television monitors and cassette units are located near the Media Center. Pre-recorded video programs may be checked out at the center's desk.

FILM COOPERATIVE

The Media Center is also a member of a film cooperative which includes Huntington Beach Union High School District, Westminster School District and Ocean View School District. The collection includes over 2,000 16mm films which are delivered to 54 schools daily and are also available for check out from the center. The wide variety of subjects covered by the films adds to their versatility. Film catalogs of this collection may be purchased for a small fee.
BICENTENNIAL Joint efforts of the Bicentennial Commission and the Historical Society are making the dedication of the Library an event of the Heritage '76 and Horizons '76 programs of the celebration of the nation's 200th birthday.

SPECIAL FLAG

Flying over the dedication festivities will be the Huntington Beach Bicentennial Historic Flag, the only United States flag to have flown over Independence Hall in Philadelphia, Valley Forge, Gettysburg, the Nation's Capitol in Washington, D.C., and Arlington National Cemetery.

Commemorating the relationship between Henry E. Huntington, whose railroad was important in the early development of Huntington Beach and for whom the city is named, a representative from the Henry E. Huntington Library in San Marino is participating in dedication of the library.

The Bicentennial Commission, Historical Society and Friends of the Library are working to acquire display cases for exhibit in the library of historical and cultural material of local, state, and regional significance. The Historical Society has a rich and ever-growing collection of material related to the early settlement and history of the area to be displayed at the library as well as at the Newland House, presently being restored as a historic monument and permanent museum as part of Heritage '76.

FRIENDS

Friends of the Huntington Beach Public Library was organized in July 1971 after considerable organizing effort by Mrs. Charlene Bauer and Mrs. Rhoda Martyn as co-chairmen.

SUPPORT LIBRARY

Its primary purpose is to support and cooperate with the Library in developing library services and facilities. The Friends have enriched library resources through membership fees and other fund-raising activities.

The initial advisory board consisted of Jan Mason, membership; Marie Sheets, projects; Connie Johnson, publicity; and Margaret Force, bulletin.

First set of officers were Olga Wrobel, president; Rhoda Martyn, vice president; Marie Bottoms, secretary; and Jean Warden, treasurer.

OFFER SERVICES

The new Library, Information and Cultural Resources Center will provide a room where Friends will offer best sellers and art reproductions for a small rental fee. Proceeds from these rentals will be used to diversify the range of operation of this facility.

In recent years Friends has sponsored museum tours, book sales, book-related speakers and holiday wassail parties where many local authors were guests.

Persons interested in volunteering library service may contact Marie Sheets at the library or telephone 842-3704.

SUPPORT
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Executive Assistant
Floyd G. Belsito
Civil Defense
Wilbur J. Lage
Economic Development
William J. Back
Public Information
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Larry Curran Robert Polly

HUNTINGTON BEACH LIBRARY
INFORMATION & CULTURAL RESOURCE CENTER
Richard and Dion Nautra, Architects Swinerton and Walberg, Contractors

EDITORIAL STAFF
William G. Reed, Executive Editor; Jacqueline Schmidt, Editorial Director; Thom Jacobs, Art Director; Tim Flanagan, Chief Photographer; Mark Davis, Library Staff Coordinator; Bill Hodge, Writer; Delbert G. Higgins, Historical Consultant; Louise Woodruff, Production Coordinator.

LIBRARY STAFF
Gwen Talbert, Sue Baerg, Marie Sheets, Linda Strauss, Marcia Donat, Kathy Muhs, Diane Pinterpe, Sherrie Daugherty, Ann Hamill, Ron Hayden, Marian Anderson.

A Partial List of Those Who Have Made This Library Possible