

## Beacon Hill Branch

The Beacon Hill Branch is often filled to capacity with people of all ages and ethnic backgrounds. This elegant, light-filled facility offers an amazing array of programming, including book groups, story times and computer classes in English, Chinese and Spanish, Talk Time, ESL classes, and a homework help program that is bursting at the seams. Branch staff members have strong community connections and partner effectively with key neighborhood groups to provide bilingual programs and workshops for immigrants and refugees. The branch functions as a community space for people who speak a variety of languages and provides access to multilingual books and newspapers and Internet computers.

**Needs:** Always a busy location, the Beacon Hill Branch has seen a spike in usage as a result of the reduction in open hours at the nearby Columbia Branch. Children and teens fill every seat after school and evenings for homework, study time, and a place to read and connect. The levy will relieve service pressures by expanding hours at the Columbia Branch and other locations. Computers and printers essential to support students, immigrants and others will be upgraded and the collection of books and materials and online services improved. Funding for regular building maintenance for this beautiful building is also included.

### What this means for patrons:

- Preserve current hours
- Add books, electronic books, movies and music and reduce wait times, especially for popular titles
- Expand children's collection of books systemwide to support early literacy and early learning
- Eliminate one-week systemwide closure
- Upgrade technology services, including computers, software, printers, copiers, online services and infrastructure
- Increase maintenance, including specialized cleaning and furniture care, periodic restroom updates, major maintenance

### Programs:

Computer classes and story times in English, Chinese and Spanish, basic Library skills classes, adult ESL classes, workshops, book groups, homework help, Talk Time, Play & Learn, health care workshops

### Currently open:

Seven days a week

### Special features:

The Beacon Hill Branch has a World Language magnet collection that includes books, movies and music in Spanish, Chinese and Vietnamese. Bilingual staff members are available to help patrons. The branch also offers a community space currently leased to the nonprofit Beacon Hill Resource Center.

In 2011, the 28 computers at the Beacon Hill Branch had almost 80,000 computer sessions. They were the most intensively used computers of any branch.



### At a Glance 2011

- 286,055 patron visits
- 418,067 materials checked out
- 2,471 story time participants
- 1,104 homework help students
- 28 public computers
- 182 community meetings

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