



information. They develop an ability to understand how other people think and feel and they tend to be more flexible in their thinking and more open to new ideas. Libraries are critical in the creation of positive learning environments where children and adults can share knowledge and experiences and learn from each other. Libraries promote choice, opportunity and champion free speech. They are critical cornerstones to modern society.

The need for a larger facility in Castro Valley to accommodate the needs of our children and our growing community—not to mention access for the disabled, adequate parking and safety issues—was highlighted in a Community Needs Assessment conducted in 2001. The assessment also pointed out the need for a larger book collection, a venue for community events and enhanced partnership with the school system.

A Castro Valley Library Plan of Service evolved directly from the Community Needs Assessment and reflected the expressed desire of the people of Castro Valley for a beautiful, landscaped building that serves as a community landmark; as a center for programs and services that educate, inspire and inform; and as a venue for community arts and events.

What the funds will buy

The \$22.7 million in state and county monies will fund the construction of a spacious, landscaped facility to serve as a community landmark, center for programs and services, and venue for meetings, study and events. Beyond space for shelves to house the library's growing collection, the new library will feature a café, a community meeting space featuring state-of-the-art technology, and a Multi-purpose Education Center.

The Multi-purpose Education Center will feature an innovative program designed to further the education of the community's youth. Through a joint partnership between the County Library and the Castro Valley Unified School District literacy instruction, career counseling, homework assistance, and computer instruction will take place. This nearly 1,000 sq. ft. space will be a unique highlight of the building, and will truly help to make the library central to the community's formal education goals.

The additional \$4 million in community funding is what will bring the new library to life by filling it with new technology and turning a beautiful new building into a world-class resource for young and old, outfitted with a collection that is second to none and that will truly bring