

west hollywood City Hall **HOT TOPIC**



NEW WEST HOLLYWOOD LIBRARY SCHEDULED TO OPEN THIS FALL

BY PAULO MURILLO

The city of West Hollywood recently invited several members of the LGBT press to be the first to take a media tour of the new state-of-the-art West Hollywood Library. The highly anticipated West Hollywood Library is nearing completion of the West Hollywood Park Master Plan's Phase 1. *Frontiers* attended the hardhat tour of a building that has had residents talking since going into construction two years ago.

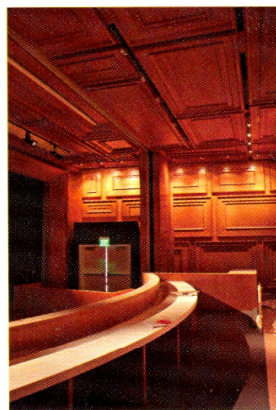
"The West Hollywood Library dream is almost a reality," West Hollywood Mayor John J. Duran stated in a press release. "The library, a first-class learning and community center for all generations, will provide amazing opportunities to continue building community in West Hollywood. This has been accomplished thanks to the tireless efforts of many committed people in our community," he added.

The new library is a major component to the city's 25th Anniversary Capital Project. The 32,000-square-foot facility promises to offer a library experience like no other. It will house a one-of-a-kind LGBT area for an extensive collection of lesbian and

gay literature, history, personal materials and a collection of 4,050 LGBT books that continues to grow. The Ron Shipton HIV Information Center will be expanded to include up-to-date educational materials on HIV and AIDS—all made accessible in a private setting. The Stuart Feigin Computer and Technology Center will offer 16 computers and free internet access for all library users. The Wells Fargo Career Development Center will help those on job searches by providing office equipment and staff members to guide them in researching job listings.

There will be a children's library and a children's theater—designed to look like a giant wooden crate—for storytelling and puppet shows. Teens will have their own area to hold group studies. There will be a West Hollywood Room and Archive, which will hold materials that tell the history of West Hollywood's evolution through books, audio and video materials. There will also be a bookstore.

A new Council Meeting Room will hold up to 190 seats. Green components have also been implemented.

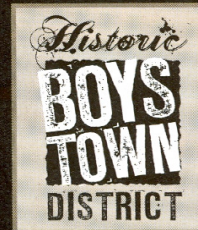


PHOTOS: BRETT WHITE

And renowned artist David Wiseman and Shepard Fairey will contribute two major art installations.

Architects Steve Johnson and Jim Favaro of the architectural firm Johnson Favaro designed the West Hollywood Library. Most interior features are 90 percent finished. The outdoor ceremonial stairs elaborately wind up to the main entrance of the library. White marble walls and rich wood moldings on major ceilings are bound to impress. Equally breathtaking is the view of West Hollywood's San Vicente Boulevard from the floor-to-ceiling panoramic windows that run across the entire main library on the second floor. The total cost to complete Phase 1 of the West Hollywood Park master plan is \$64 Million.

The community dedication and grand opening of the new West Hollywood Library will be held Sat., Oct. 1. For more information on Phase 1 of the West Hollywood Master Park Master Plan, call Chris Worland at (323) 848-6511, or visit weho.org.



HOW DO YOU THINK A NEW LIBRARY WILL IMPACT THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD?



"Any money spent on educating people is probably money spent wisely. A new library will attract people to the city and encourage people to read. Books are important. As a kid, my mom never said no to me when it came to buying me a book."

—Tom Krause



"A new library will bring positive reinforcements to the community. West Hollywood is not just about going to bars. And it makes sense to build something big and artistic when you look at the massive construction at the Pacific Design Center across the street."

—Raul Ballesteros



"West Hollywood should have a nice library. This will be good for our community and a good investment for future generations. People don't just use libraries for books anymore. You get internet access, DVDs and I guess homeless people will have a new place to hang out and a nice restroom to use."

—Geoffrey Thomas

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