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Los Angeles City College Moves Forward on Campus Modernization with New Library

Slated to break ground in fall 2006, the three-story structure will provide many new amenities for library patrons

LOS ANGELES (July 17, 2006) Los Angeles City College (LACC), one of the nine Los Angeles Community Colleges, will soon embark on the construction of a new library on its East Hollywood campus, Dr. Steve Maradian, president of LACC, announced recently. The new structure will replace the older one on the quad which was built in the mid-1930s, with additions made in the 1960s.

The new library will be located on the north end of the campus, along Willowbrook Avenue near Vermont, on the site of the current men's gymnasium and former athletic field. It will be conveniently located near the Santa Monica-Vermont Metro Red Line station.

Designed by Steinberg Architects, the building will be three stories, covering 64,000 sq. ft. The building is funded with approximately \$20 million from the State and \$1.8 million in funds from the Proposition A/AA bonds passed by Los Angeles voters in 2001 and 2003. Groundbreaking will occur in the fall of this year, and the building is expected to open by early 2008.

"The new library will be much more pleasant for the students," said Barbara Vasquez, LACC library chairperson. "It will be a lot more intuitive as to where things are, with more outdoor light from expansive windows. Because of its shape, all interior spaces will be near windows, even the study rooms. And the second and third floors will have nice views of downtown. There will be improved safety features. And the furniture will be more ergonomic. Also there'll be more study rooms to accommodate the demands of the students."

The new structure will have a long and narrow shape, 300 feet long and 60 feet wide. With a staff of 14 librarians and library technicians, the library will house 150,000 books, with computerized databases for newspaper and magazine research. The college newspaper, *The Collegian*, will also be online. There will be ample Internet connections, both for hardwired and wireless computers.

The first floor will house the circulation desk, periodicals, reference desk with 36 adjacent computers, archive room, and computer classroom. The second floor will house 126 computers, one third of the book stacks, eight group study rooms, plus individualized study areas. The remainder of the books will be housed on the third floor, with nine group study rooms, an additional computer classroom, a conference room and individual study areas with carrels and tables.

The new building will have a faux-brick facade that will complement the look of the nearby brick-clad communications building. The interior decorations will include blue carpeting, furniture made of light wood with a deep navy inset that will resist marring, and ergonomic chairs. The book stacks will have metallic gray shelving and the lounge chairs will be lime green with navy accents. The building will have state-of-the-art air conditioning and the ceilings are being designed to expose the ductwork and lighting. Two public elevators, a separate elevator for book carts, as well as a number of stairways will also be incorporated into the design.

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The new library building will take the name of the old one with it: the Martin Luther King, Jr., Library. An engraving of the text of Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech will be placed on a first floor window next to the entrance.

The lead architect is Gilbert Rocca of Steinberg Architect's Los Angeles office. The firm has designed other buildings for the Los Angeles Community College District, as well as libraries throughout the world, including one in New Zealand.

To prepare the site for construction, the men's gym will be taken down later this summer. During the construction phase, the old library will still be in use.

The Los Angeles Community College District's construction and modernization projects receive funding from Propositions A/AA, two bond measures overwhelmingly approved by Los Angeles voters in 2001 and 2003. Propositions A /AA are providing more than \$2.2 billion for new construction and renovations at each of the nine community colleges. For more information, visit the construction program's web site at www.PropositionA.org.

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