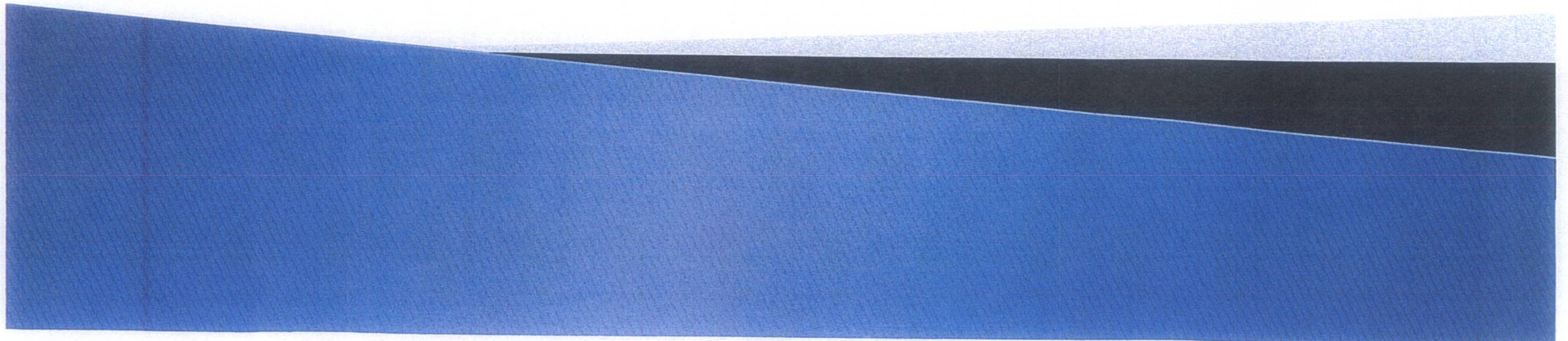
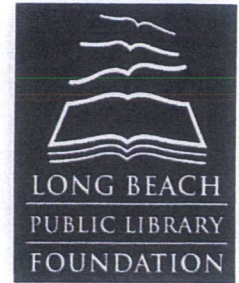


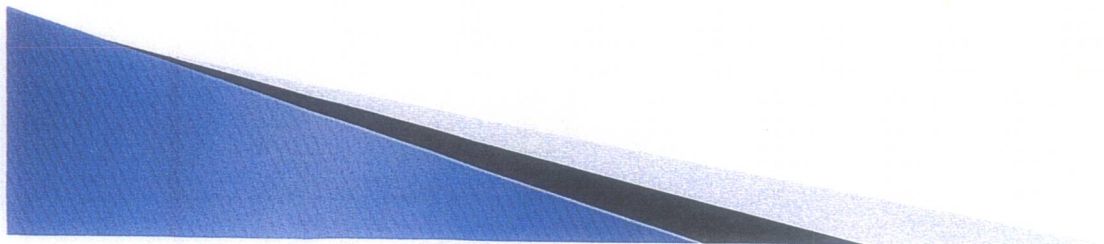
Long Beach Public Library:
A CORE CITY SERVICE
"More than just checking out books"



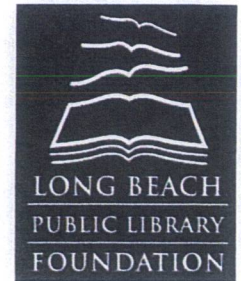
Long Beach Public Library: A Core City Service



- ▶ In 2010, the Long Beach Public Library had 1.5 million visitations. (As much as the Aquarium of the Pacific, which is open two more days and draws from a national tourism crowd)
- ▶ Over 250,000 Long Beach residents have library cards. (More than 50% of the population)
- ▶ Librarians answered 435,009 requests for information in 2010.

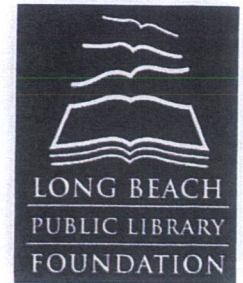


Long Beach Public Library: Services Offered



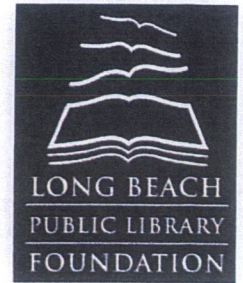
- ▶ Book Lending
- ▶ Reference Questions Answered
- ▶ Research Guidance
- ▶ Homework Help
- ▶ Job and Resume Assistance
- ▶ Technology/Computer Classes
- ▶ Pre-school Children Story Times
- ▶ School Class Visits
- ▶ Children's Crafts & Activities
- ▶ Adult Summer Reading Program
- ▶ Children's Summer Programming
- ▶ Book Discussions
- ▶ Digital Archive Assistance
- ▶ Library Card Applications
- ▶ Fine Payment Processing
- ▶ Book Reviews
- ▶ Community Classes
- ▶ DVD Rental
- ▶ Language Learning Assistance
- ▶ Special Teen Programming
- ▶ Family Films
- ▶ Book Clubs

Schools Served By “Reading Room Libraries”



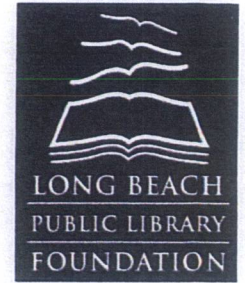
- ▶ **ALAMITOS**– Burbank, City Christian, Mann, St. Anthony High School, St. Anthony Elementary School
- ▶ **BACH**– Bancroft Middle School, Bethany Lutheran, Burcham, Carver, Cleveland, First Baptist of Lakewood, Gompers, Henry, Hoover Middle School, Lakewood High School, Laurelcrest School for Girls, MacArthur, Marshall Middle School, Montessori School–Eureka, Riley, St. Cornelius, St. Cyprian, St. Timothy Lutheran, Twain
- ▶ **BREWITT**–Bay Shore School, Bryant, Huntington Academy, Jefferson Leadership Academy, Lee, Long Beach School for Adults, Marina Montessori, Reid High School, Westerly, Willard, Wilson High School, Zinsmeyer Academy

Long Beach Public Library: “Reading Room” Concept



- ▶ Book lending
- ▶ Reference Questions Answered
 - (FEWER, LONGER WAIT TIMES)
- ▶ ~~Research Guidance~~
- ▶ ~~Homework Help~~
- ▶ ~~Job and Resume Assistance~~
- ▶ ~~Technology/Computer Classes~~
- ▶ ~~Pre-school Children Story Times~~
- ▶ ~~School Class Visits~~
- ▶ ~~Children's Crafts & Activities~~
- ▶ ~~Adult Summer Reading Program~~
- ▶ ~~Children's Summer Programming~~
- ▶ ~~Book Discussions~~
- ▶ ~~Digital Archive Assistance~~
- ▶ ~~Library Card Applications~~
- ▶ ~~Fine Payment Processing~~
- ▶ ~~Book Reviews~~
- ▶ ~~Community Classes~~
- ▶ ~~DVD Rental~~
- ▶ ~~Language Learning Assistance~~
- ▶ ~~Special Teen Programming~~
- ▶ ~~Family Films~~
- ▶ ~~Book Clubs~~

Community Impact of “Reading Room Libraries”



Customers Served		
	FY10	FY11*
Alamitos	87,739	77,401
Bach	78,108	72,689
Brewitt	67,476	63,480

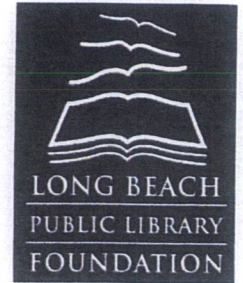
Youth Served		
	FY10	FY11*
Alamitos	2,907	3,019
Bach	5,333	5,657
Brewitt	3,450	3,259

Community Programs Offered		
	FY10	FY11*
Alamitos	175	203
Bach	184	229
Brewitt	195	167

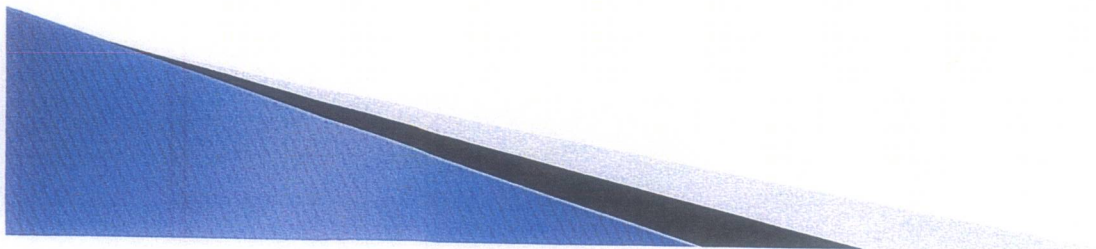
Questions Answered		
	FY10	FY11*
Alamitos	10,596	9,244
Bach	25,040	29,337
Brewitt	11,639	12,715

*Projected from 10 months of data, libraries open less hours/days in 2011

Issues with “Reading Room Service Model”

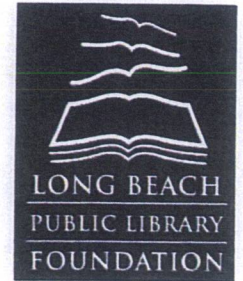


- **Equality issues** – Branches were set up strategically around the City to serve those within walking distance. Many residents that these libraries serve will have no way of transporting themselves to other full service libraries, and those are exactly the patrons who are most in need of the services offered at a freely accessible library.
- **Loss of Vital Access** – Professional librarians offer patrons assistance with questions, access, technology, research and also develop programming, classes, and story times. As long as the library is open, the community will still expect assistance when they enter a library and will not understand the reduced level of service.



Issues with (cont'd)

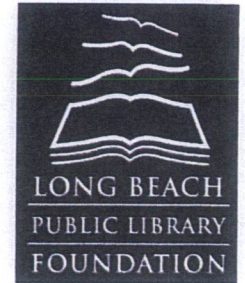
“Reading Room Service Model



- **Loss of Children’s Programs** – These three targeted branches serve a large youth population. Toddler story times help deal with nationwide problems regarding kindergarten readiness, building social skills, addressing literacy issues, and helping to close the reading readiness gap by age nine. This is unfair to children and school classes in the central Long Beach areas, who won’t have access to libraries in more affluent neighborhoods.
- **Potential Increase in Youth Crime and School Dropouts**– The Library’s Family Learning Centers serve as a “last protection against drop outs” for youths in these poor performing areas. The centers have seen an increase in usage, and students rely on the services to succeed in school. Library programs provide preventative measures to keep youths off the streets.
- **Schools Can’t Cover the Gap** – School libraries cannot be relied upon to serve the students affected by these cuts. School budget cuts have been draconian and there are entire schools with library services only one day a week.

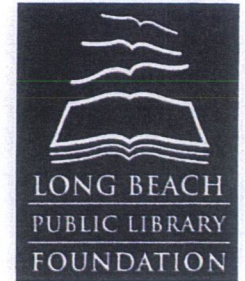
“Reading Room Service Model”

A Concern for ALL Council Districts



- ▶ The budget makes reference to the FY 2012–2013 cuts of an additional \$600K by stating that MORE libraries will become “Reading Room” libraries and there may also be branch closures.
- ▶ The “Reading Room Service Model Pilot” is an out-of-date concept that doesn’t take into account the way libraries have evolved into “Community Media Information Centers” offering many more vital services beyond just access to books.
- ▶ The “Reading Room” concept needs to be viewed for what it is: a TEMPORARY draconian cut in an extreme budget crisis, and NOT a viable option for a new “pilot” service model that will be expanded to another library in YOUR council district next year.

Conclusions



- ▶ We are adamantly against the “Reading Room” model proposed for Alamitos, Bach and Brewitt. This is NOT a viable plan for the future of Long Beach libraries.
- ▶ The “Reading Room” model carries with it grave inequities for residents, especially those from poorer socio-economic parts of the city who won’t be able to just visit another branch.
- ▶ Expecting patrons to “double up” at nearby branches will not work due to overcrowding, reduced staffing and limited programming.
- ▶ A “Reading Room” with inadequate staff to provide full services to the public and no community programming is NOT a library, and isn’t any better than rolling closures. This concept should not be viewed as a viable service model for the Long Beach Public Library.

