



Oakland Public Library Director's Introduction

In 2002, the Oakland Public Library embarked on an exciting, new and first-ever, development of a Master Facilities Plan for branches and to study a new or renovated Main Library. This work was stimulated by the recognized need to expand and upgrade existing and aging facilities to respond to the current and future information and recreation demands of library users.

In order to ensure that the Plan met the needs of everyone concerned, the Library hired consultants to work with library staff and with many library communities, constituencies and partners to determine the library service needs and programs in each neighborhood and evaluate the facilities to meet these local needs. This work included a series of community meetings beginning in 2002, a Community Action Committee, representing all parts of the City, Library organizations and City Council members, that continues to discuss the overall plan and develop strategies for making these dreams for the future a reality.

The results of this work so far are twofold:

- In January 2004, the library submitted a grant application with the State Library to assist in construction of a new Branch Library at 81st and Rudsdale. This library will be the first to incorporate new concepts developed under the Master Plan. We will hear in Fall 2004 whether we are successful in obtaining funding; and
- The Draft Master Facilities Plan we are submitting for your information and comment.

The work is not finished; the Main Library plan is still under development, and the Branch Summaries are incomplete without hearing from you. We will be coming back into the community and neighborhoods to tell you about the Plan. We hope to receive feedback on whether we got it right the first time when we came out to listen to you.

We will keep you informed of our progress, and invite you to actively participate in the effort.

Carmen L. Martinez
Library Director