



DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. LIBRARY
A collaboration between the City of San José and San José State University

Fact Sheet

Celebrating 5 Years of Successful Collaboration – Working & Learning Together

FIVE YEARS OF SUCCESS

The King Library has transformed a once quiet city corner into a bustling center of activity that is both an educational and cultural hub. Visitors in numbers comparable to the population of a small town pass through its doors on a daily basis during the academic year. The shared Web site—SJLibrary.org—receives, on average, more than **85,000 hits per day**. Exhibit space is booked a year in advance, meeting rooms are in high demand, and the library is frequently chosen as a site for high-profile events.

“The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library stands as proof of the mutual benefits that can result when the city of San Jose and San Jose State University pool resources.”

Editorial, San Jose Mercury News, 5/23/08

QUICK FACTS*

Over the past five years:

- 13,190,485 visits – equal to the number of fans who visited the San Francisco Giants baseball games for the past four seasons
- 11,321,381 items checked out – comparable to the number of Chrysler minivans sold in two decades (1984-2004)
- 3,533,613 computer bookings – two for each resident of Santa Clara County
- 1,135,188 new items added to collections systemwide – more than one for every San José residential and campus community member
- 848,648 reference questions – surpassing the combined number of questions submitted to the San Jose Mercury News “Mr. Roadshow” and “Action Line” columns
- 108,112 people attended 4,484 programs – attendees would almost fill up the Rose Bowl stadium in Pasadena
- 3,601 adult literacy learners received 19,247 tutoring hours – number of learners would more than fill the San Jose Center for the Performing Arts



A month of celebration
starting

**Saturday
September 6, 2008**

11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

ON CARET PLAZA

Opening Ceremony

Refreshments

Multicultural Performances

IN THE LIBRARY

Crafts

Juggling

Story Time

Library History Display

Special Collections Open House

Teen Photo Project Display

Video Game Tournament

* Covering August 1, 2003 – June 30, 2008

BACKGROUND

Five years ago in August 2003, a dream became reality when the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library opened its doors to serve a wide community of public and academic users, including children and teens. It was hailed as a groundbreaking and innovative collaboration, the first between a major city and a university. Only six years prior, the library was an idea conceived over breakfast by then Mayor Susan Hammer and San José State University President Robert L. Caret. The idea took shape through the combined efforts of the City of San José, San José State University, the San José Redevelopment Agency and the California State University system. An estimated 20,000 turned out for the grand opening, immediately establishing the King Library as a downtown landmark and a conduit for frequent intermingling of town and gown. The library has been the recipient of numerous awards, including:

- 2004 Library of the Year (Thomson Gale & *Library Journal*)
- 2004 Helen Putnam Award of Excellence for Intergovernmental Relations & Regional Cooperation (League of California Cities)
- 2004 CASE Circle of Excellence Silver Award for Best Practices in Public or Governmental Relations (Council for Advancement & Support for Education)
- 2005 James C. Howland Gold Prize for Municipal Enrichment (National League of Cities)

The Library's unique status as a co-developed and co-managed facility has attracted interest and visitors from other libraries and municipalities across the nation and around the world.

EXPANDED COLLABORATION

This success has led to a more robust city-university partnership, referred to as the Beyond Martin Luther King (BMLK) collaborative. This partnership, led by senior management from both the city and university, includes the following ongoing projects:

- Public Sector Career Initiative
- Faculty/Staff Homeownership Program
- Pedestrian Planning on San Carlos Street (adjacent to campus)
- South Campus Joint Planning
- CommUniverCity Service Learning
- 01SJ Art & Technology Annual Festival

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