



DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. LIBRARY

*A collaboration between the City of San José and San José State University*

# *News Release*

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For Immediate Release

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## **King Library Celebrates Five Years of Success**

*“5 on Fourth” event will mark anniversary of unique partnership*

SAN JOSE, Calif. – The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library — the first library in the United States to be jointly owned and operated by a major city and university — will mark its fifth anniversary with a daylong celebration on Saturday, September 6, followed by a month of activities focused on lifelong learning.

Since August 2003, the successful collaboration between the City of San José and San José State University has provided a collection of more than a million books, periodicals, CDs, DVDs, computers and other resources in a visually stunning, eight-story facility designed for the joint use of public and academic customers. King Library has served a dual role as the university library and the main library for the burgeoning branch network of the San José Public Library system, allowing materials and electronic resources from both university and public collections to be shared freely.

With the King Library located at Fourth and San Fernando streets, the anniversary celebration has been dubbed “5 on Fourth.” The festivities will kick-off on September 6, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., with a celebration featuring exhibits and fun activities for all ages, both in the library and on the adjacent Caret Plaza. The opening ceremony at 11 a.m. will be followed by light refreshments and multicultural entertainment in the plaza area. Demi Rae Moreno, San Jose’s 2008 “teen idol” and a student at Martin Murphy Middle School, will lead guests in singing “Happy Birthday” as part of the opening festivities.

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Starting at noon, attendees will have a variety of activities to choose from.

**On Caret Plaza and Tower Lawn:**

- Music and dance performances by the Sandoshin Taiko, Vo Vinam Martial Arts and Lion Dance, and Las Cruces Baile Folklorico.

**Inside the Library:**

- “The World of Beethoven’s Pianos” – A historical journey through the development of the piano during Beethoven's time,
- “The Salacious Steinbeck: The Women Behind the Masterworks” – A discussion on the strong women who played significant roles in John Steinbeck's life and work,
- Library History Exhibit – A portrayal of more than 150 years of libraries in San Jose through photographs, documents and memorabilia, chronicling the history of library service to the university and San Jose residents,
- “My World, My Community” – A display of photos created by local teens highlighting various aspects of the King Library and downtown environment,
- Young Adult Video Game Tournament – A challenge for young adults to compete in five different video games; the participant with the highest combined score will win a Nintendo DS.

Crafts and story time, plus tours of the library and Special Collections areas round out the day’s offerings.

The celebration continues throughout September. Highlights include a University Scholar Series lecture by SJSU Professor Randall Stross, author of the new release “Planet Google;” free noon-hour concerts at the university’s Music Concert Hall, free dancing lessons on Caret Plaza; visits from authors in two San Jose branch libraries and programs ranging from Master Gardener demonstrations to Tai Chi classes and energy conservation workshops. Arts and crafts sessions are available for children in addition to traditional story times.

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The award-winning, co-management model continues to attract national and international attention from other libraries and cities. The \$170 million library project was conceived a decade ago by then Mayor Susan Hammer and San José State University President Robert L. Caret and became a reality through the efforts of the city, university, San Jose Redevelopment Agency and the California State University system.

Not only is the King Library co-owned and co-managed, it has one online system and one Web site that averages 85,000 hits a day and serves the public library's network of 17 branches (18 when Willow Glen opens on August 23). An expanding array of electronic resources and services increases the breadth and depth of library collections and enables considerable library access and use to take place online 24/7, often remotely. All library materials are accessible to all users, and the city and university work together in technical services, reference, circulation and information technology.

The partnership's success has generated other city-university programs, including CommUniverCity, a collaboration by the university, city, and neighborhoods to improve social and economic problems in low-income areas.

"5 on Fourth" is co-sponsored by the City of San José, San José State University and the San Jose Redevelopment Agency with generous support from the Friends of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library. For more information, visit [SJLibrary.org/anniversary.htm](http://SJLibrary.org/anniversary.htm) or call (408) 808-2355.

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