

100 YEARS IN THE MAKING: 1923-2023

Take a look back at 100 years of the making of the Pasadena Central Library

1923

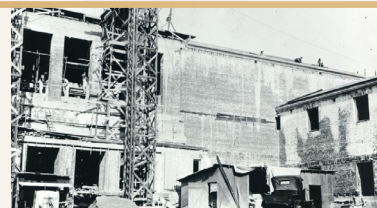
Voters approved a bond for \$3.5 million to fund the construction of the Civic Center consisting of the Central Library, City Hall, and Civic Auditorium.



Pasadena Civic Center Plan

1925

Construction of the Pasadena Central Library began on May 19, 1925.



Central Library under construction

1927

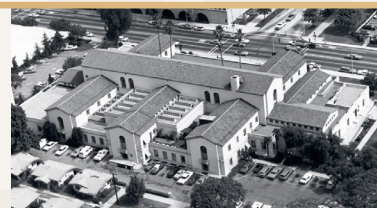
The Pasadena Central Library, designed by Myron Hunt and H.C. Chambers, was the first building completed in Pasadena's Civic Center Plan. It was dedicated on Lincoln's birthday, February 12, 1927.



Central Library immediately after it was built

1960s

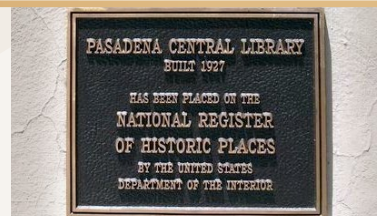
- 1966 – Funding designated for building a storytime room at Central Library.
- 1967 – Construction of the storytime room and music/art and reference wings.
- 1968 – Dedication of the storytime room and music/art and reference wings.



Central Library after the 1967-1968 construction

1980

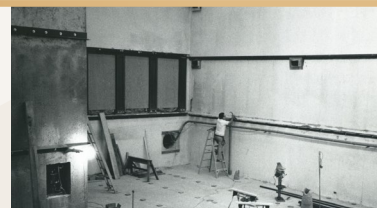
The Pasadena Civic Center District is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Central Library is listed as a contributing structure to the Pasadena Civic Center.



National Register of Historic Places Plaque

1984-1990

Central Library underwent a massive, historically sensitive restoration and renovation. The Pasadena Public Library Foundation paid for all interior restoration.



Construction of the bookstacks



For more information on the Central Library Seismic Retrofit & Renovation Project please visit www.PasadenaPublicLibrary.net



1990

In October of 1990, the Pasadena Central Library was given the National Preservation Award by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.



News clipping of Library Foundation Manager & Foundation Treasurer accepting National Preservation Award

2020

With Central Library approaching its centennial birthday, an assessment of the building's condition and its various systems commenced. In 2021, the inspection discovered that the building consists of an unreinforced masonry structure, with walls that are not fastened to the building's foundation, nor to the reinforced concrete floor beams and the timber roof they support.



Drive through Flu Shot Clinic during the pandemic

2021

On May 3rd, 2021, Central Library was closed to the general public until a seismic retrofit can be completed. In November 2021, Public Works staff issued a Request for Proposals to select a qualified design team, well-versed in both seismic retrofit and historic preservation, to further refine the analysis, prepare the environmental report, develop options for retrofit and refine budgetary estimates. In support of these efforts, Assemblymember Chris Holden worked to secure \$4 million in funding, through a grant from the State Library System in June of 2021.



Reopening Day – April 15, 2021

2022

In July of 2022, it was announced the state earmarked an additional \$5 million to the seismic retrofit and renovation project, bringing the total to \$9 million to be used towards the Central Library design and engineering work.



Preparation begins to empty the building

2023

On February 6, 2023, the Pasadena City Council approved a design services contract to move forward and begin the design process of seismically retrofitting and renovating the Pasadena Central Library, which will include preparation of environmental documentation, final construction drawings, and cost estimates for construction.



Central Library Exterior



For more information on the Central Library Seismic Retrofit & Renovation Project please visit www.PasadenaPublicLibrary.net

