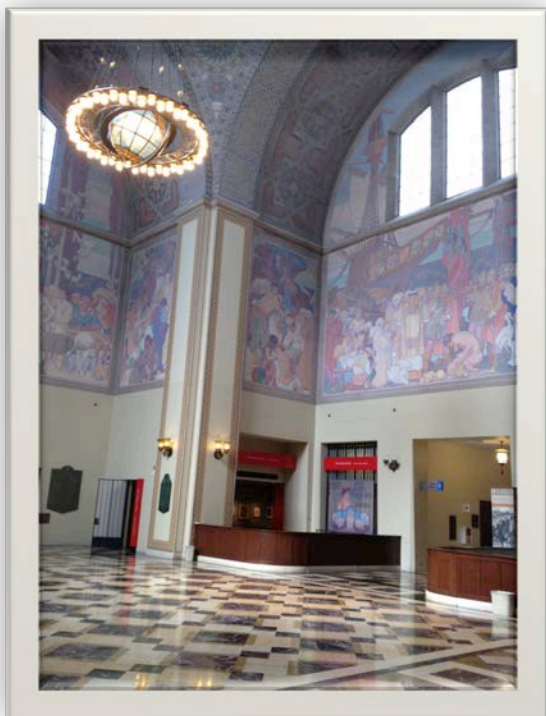


Los Angeles City Library System

La Central Library, The Rufus B. Von Kleinsmid Library



Los Angeles City Library System

Consists of:

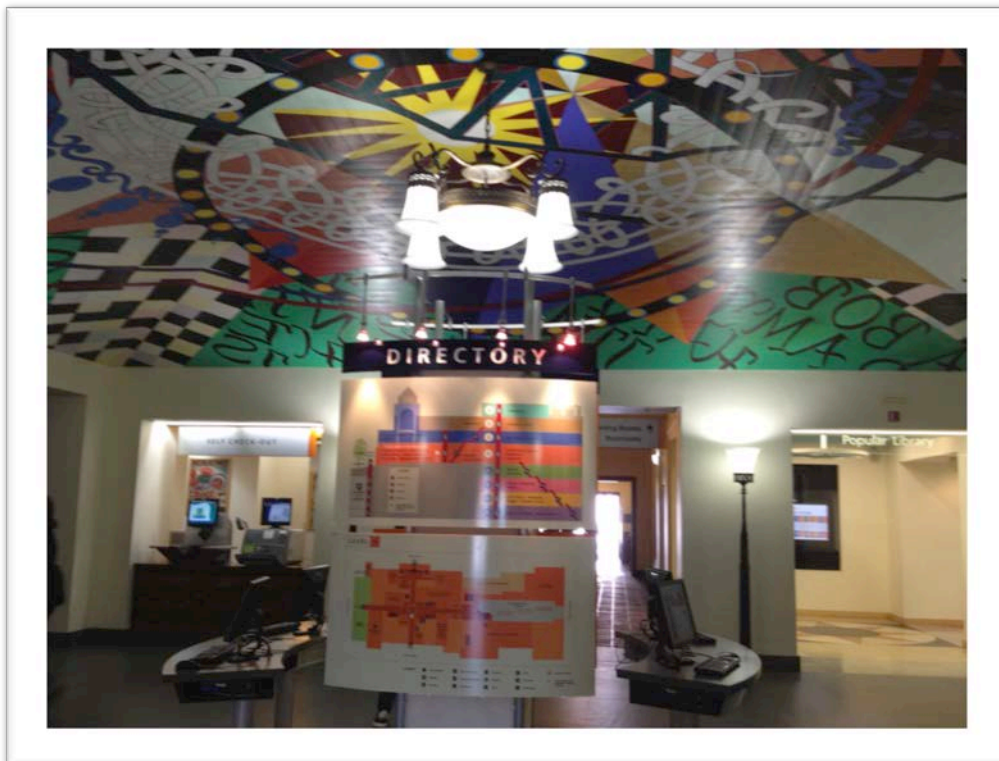
The Rufus B. Von Kleinsmid Library (Central Library), plus
72 Branches, including Regional and Neighborhood Libraries
Items in system – 6,433,495

Central Library is 540,000 sq ft. It was built in 1925 and was designed by architect Grosvenor Goodhue who also participated in the design of the Deborah Cook Sayles Public Library, located in Pawtucket, RI.

The Central Library was threatened with closure several times between 1966 and 1986. It was also the object of two acts of arson, the first in April 1986 and the second in September of the same year. *A Save the Books* campaign was begun in May and reached its 10 million dollar goal in 22 months.

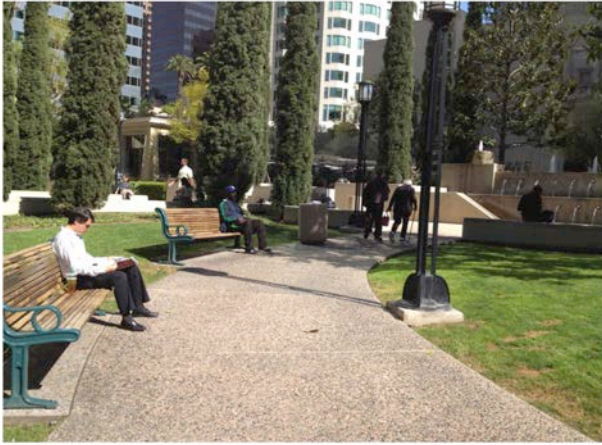
Features –

Art and Architecture are featured throughout Central Library. There are Docent tours, written explanations of the interesting features and artwork, self guided tours, and an art gallery. There are also rooms with painted ceilings, large artistic chandeliers in the atrium, a rotunda which has wall-sized paintings of great eras of Californian history, and public art inside and outside the building.



Outside -

The avenue frontage features a large garden with public art, water fountains, open space and a restaurant. The grounds are beautiful and well used by a wide range of people.



Inside-

The building is situated on three large floors with separate rooms for subjects, grouped by similarities. There is also a separate Adult Literacy Room, Children's Area and Teen Section.

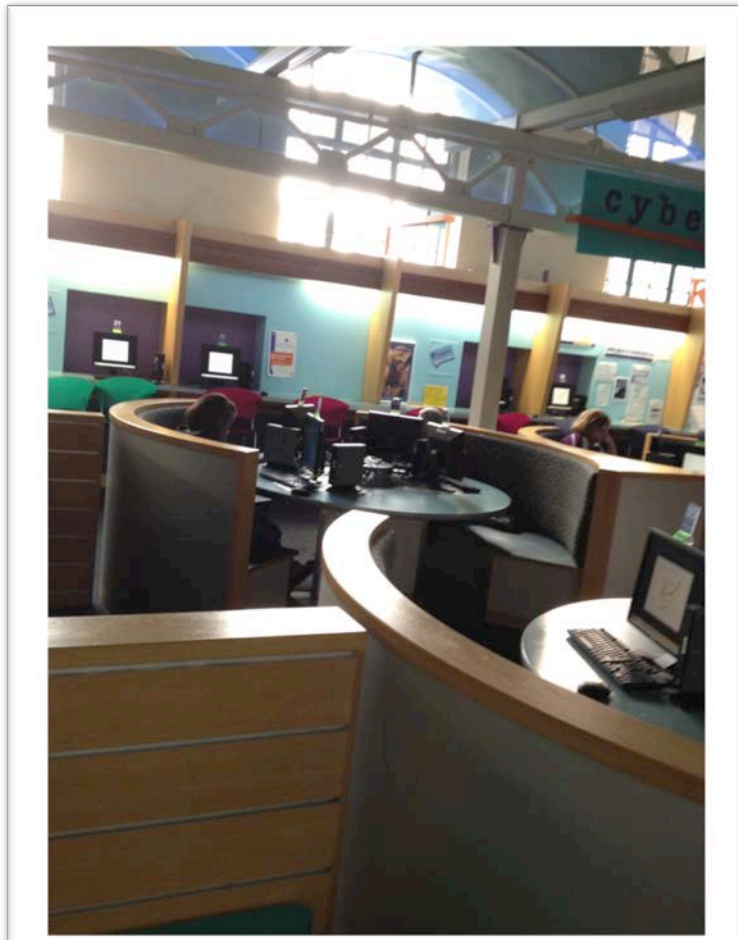
Café



The Children's Area features a reading area with small reading tables, a story-telling zone and a puppet theater with seating



Teenscape features restaurant-style booths with computer banks and comfortable areas for reading and socializing in a separate room.

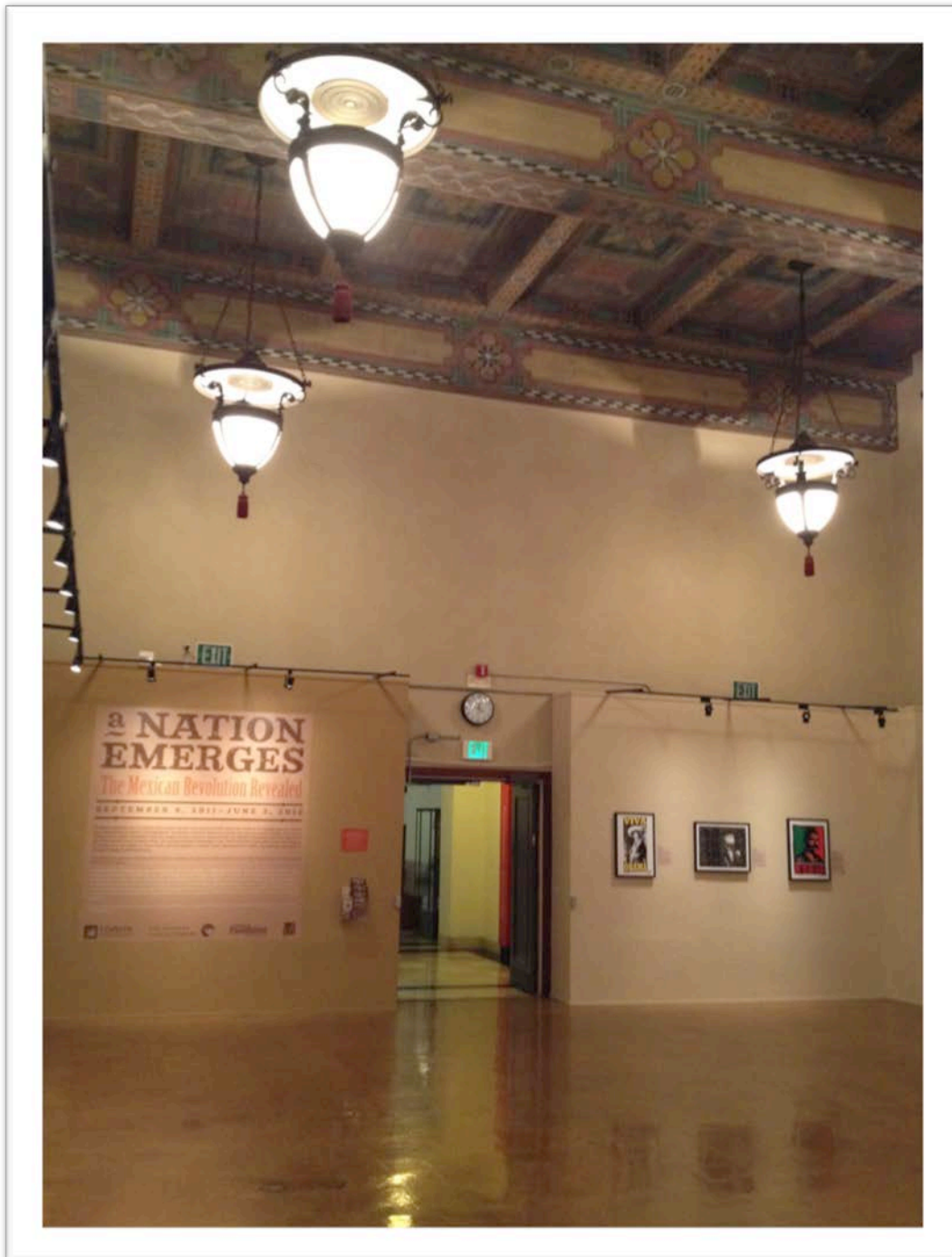


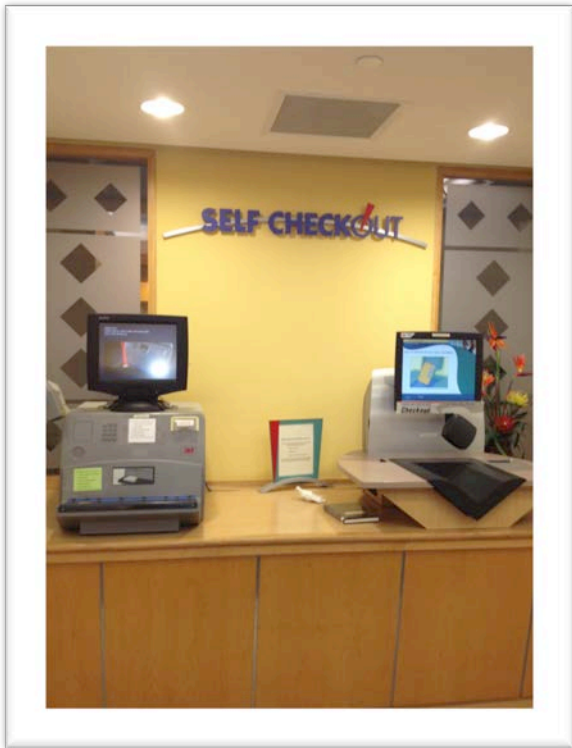
Restaurant-style computer
Booths for working and socializing

Art Gallery

There is a very large art gallery. The show at the time of my visit was –

A Nation Emerges, The Mexican Revolution Revealed.







Submitted by Christian Caldarone, March 2012