

PRESS-TELEGRAM

AN EDITION OF THE REGISTER

Sunday, September 22, 2019

\$2.00 FACEBOOK.COM/PRESSTELEGRAM TWITTER.COM/PRESSTELEGRAM

presstelegram.com

LONG BEACH

Tennis legend opens new city library

Billie Jean King helps celebrate new \$48M state-of-the-art facility that carries her name

By Josh Rosen
Correspondent

The Billie Jean King Main Library in Long Beach opened to the public Saturday with tremendous fanfare, its namesake in attendance, and no shortage of people to fill it.

The \$48 million information center — a genuine 21st century

library, as King put it — is the flagship of the new Long Beach Civic Center redevelopment and the culmination of a lifetime of courage and achievement from one of Long Beach's most admired residents.

"Today, I've come full circle in my return to Long Beach," King said. "Without the people of Long Beach, I never, ever would have

had the opportunity to launch my tennis career and travel the world and have a platform to hopefully make a difference in the lives of others."

King grew up on 36th Street, long before going on to win 39 Grand Slam titles and, of course, that legendary triumph over Bobby Riggs and male chauvinism in 1973.

A fiery and tireless player, King used her tennis fame throughout her life as a platform to ad-

LIBRARY » PAGE 7



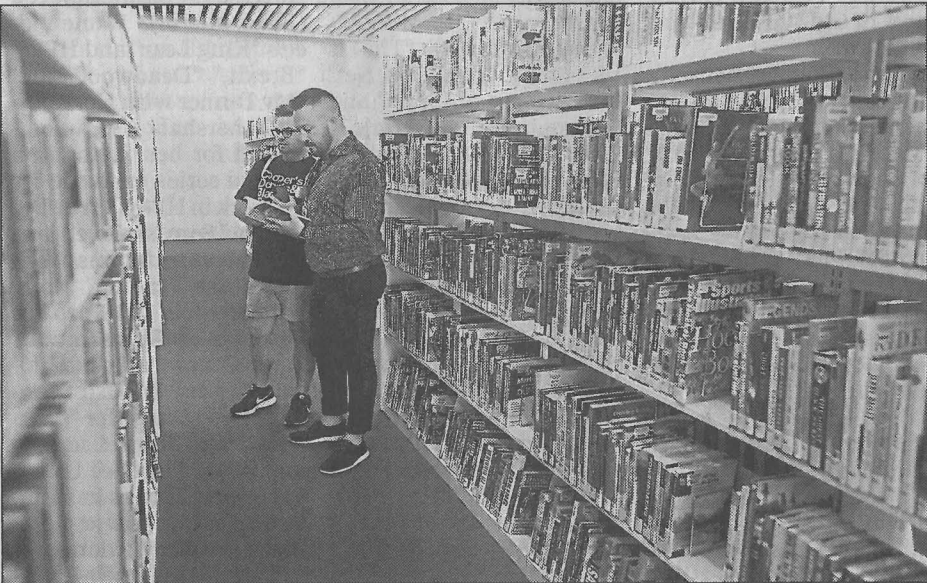
Billie Jean King speaks at the grand opening of Long Beach's new Billie Jean King Main Library, a 92,500-square-foot information center that includes space for about 300,000 books.

BRITTANY MURRAY
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHY

“This is much more meaningful and much more emotional because I’m born and raised here, as you can see how many people helped me on my journey. I feel so connected to Long Beach. I thought at 75, wow, just amazing, it’s like the circle of life.”

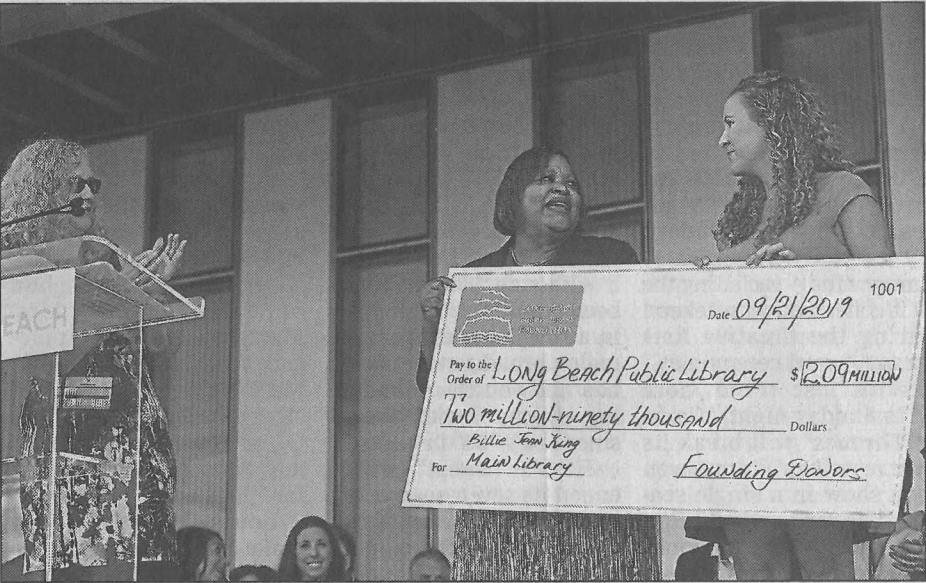
— Billie Jean King

Tennis legend opens new city library

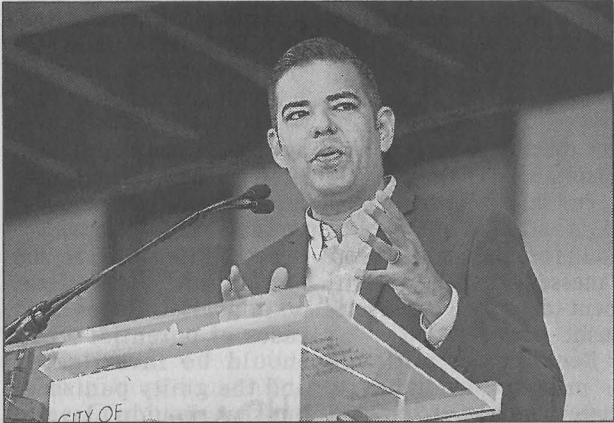


PHOTOS BY BRITTANY MURRAY — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

After the official grand opening, Chris Lewis and Michael Despars browse the books in the new Billie Jean King Main Library.



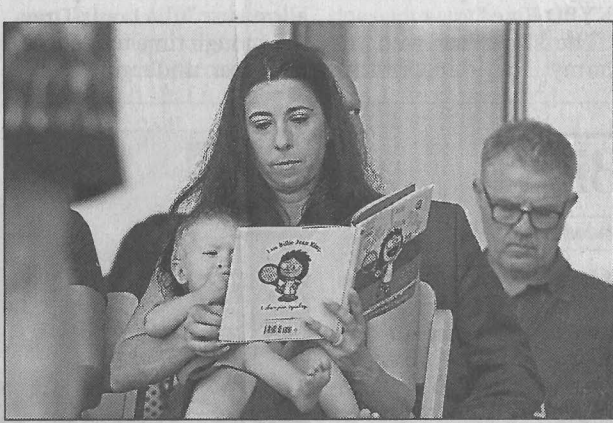
Glenda Williams, Library Director accepts a check from the Library Foundation at the grand opening of the new Billie Jean King Main Library.



Mayor Robert Garcia speaks at the grand opening of the new Billie Jean King Main Library.



Glenda Williams, Library Director speaks at the grand opening.



Councilmember Stacy Mungo reads to her daughter during the grand opening.



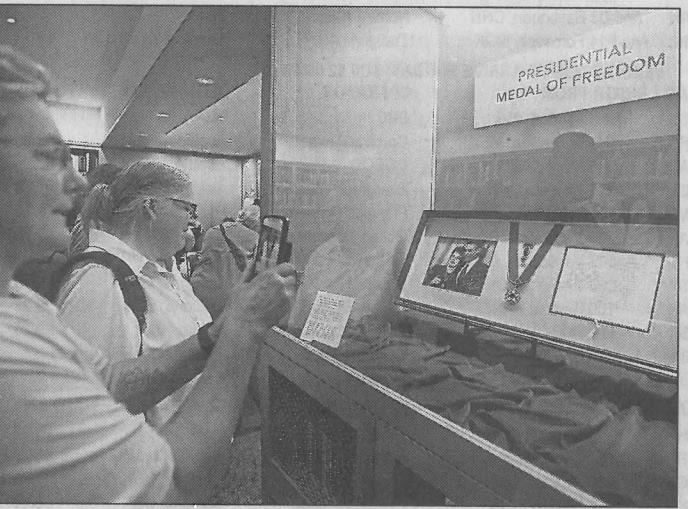
The Poly High School marching band helped in celebrating.



After the official grand opening, the public entered and began using the new Billie Jean King Main Library.



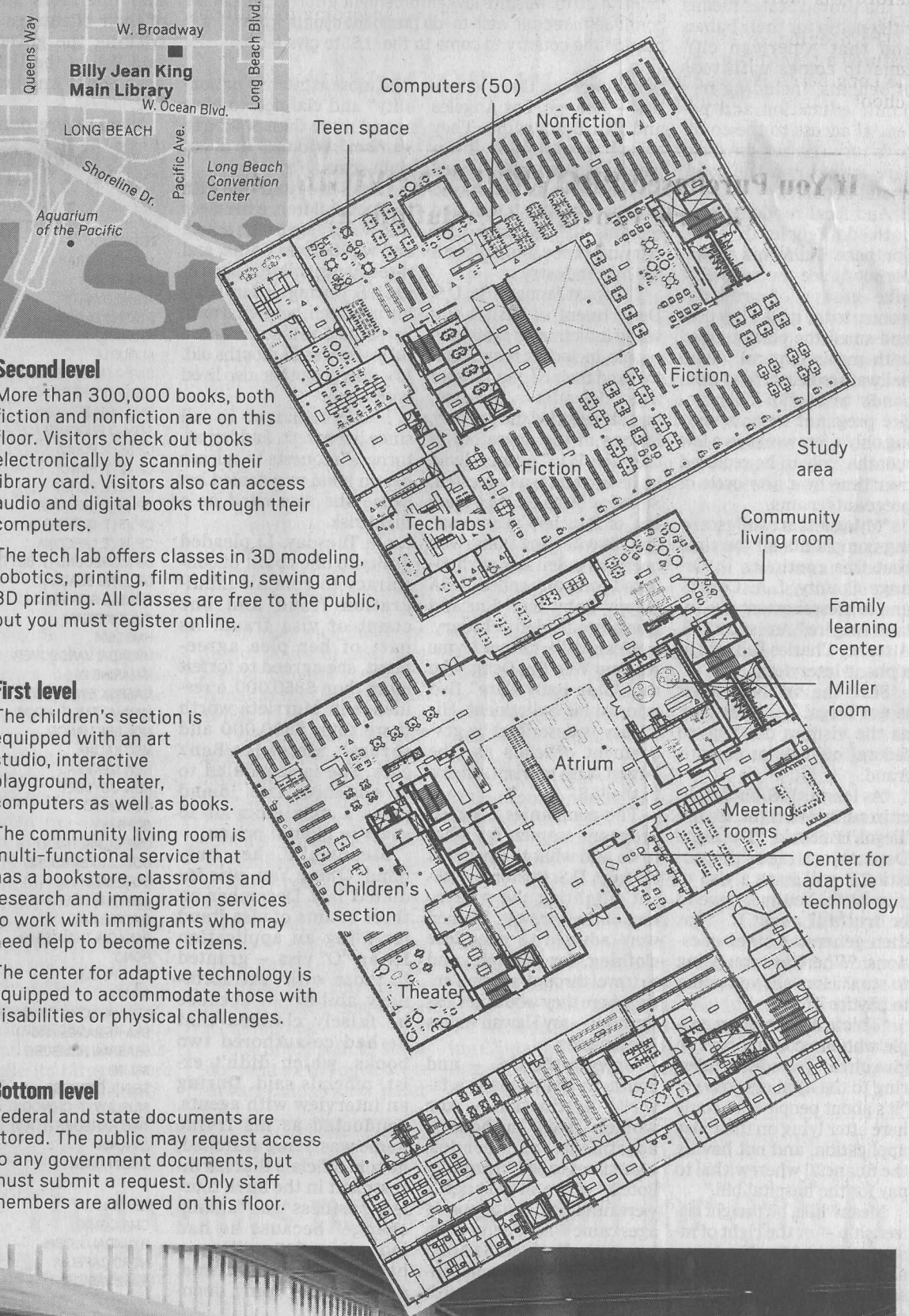
The new facility also offers a Family Learning Center, the Center for Adaptive Technology.



The new facility also offers a Veterans Resource Center, study rooms, meeting rooms, a special collections area.

Not your parents' library

The new Billy Jean King Main Library at the corner of Broadway and Pacific Avenue, is by far, the most public component of the civic center project. This 93,000 square-foot structure is equipped with an extensive learning section for children, tech labs, video and sound studios for hands-on learning, resources for the handicapped and even assistance in immigration services. It also has books.



Second level

More than 300,000 books, both fiction and nonfiction are on this floor. Visitors check out books electronically by scanning their library card. Visitors also can access audio and digital books through their computers.

The tech lab offers classes in 3D modeling, robotics, printing, film editing, sewing and 3D printing. All classes are free to the public, but you must register online.

First level

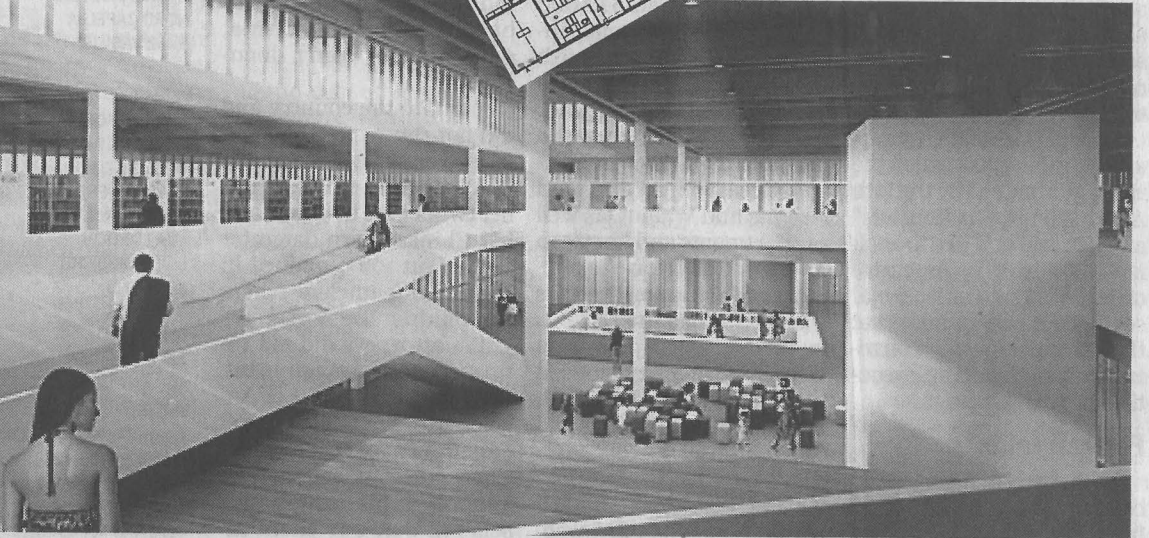
The children's section is equipped with an art studio, interactive playground, theater, computers as well as books.

The community living room is multi-functional service that has a bookstore, classrooms and research and immigration services to work with immigrants who may need help to become citizens.

The center for adaptive technology is equipped to accommodate those with disabilities or physical challenges.

Bottom level

Federal and state documents are stored. The public may request access to any government documents, but must submit a request. Only staff members are allowed on this floor.



Source: City of Long Beach

JEFF GOERTZEN, SCNG