

# Annual Report

For the Fiscal Year beginning July 1



The partnerships among our residents, businesses, community agencies, educational institutions, and local government are critical in creating innovative and efficient ways to meet our community's needs.

*New refuse truck.*



## Building Together

The Berkeley community has a strong tradition of rising to the challenge of creating a better tomorrow. As we continue to respond to the new economic realities, the partnerships among our residents, businesses, community agencies, educational institutions, and local government are critical in creating innovative and efficient ways to meet our community's needs. In this Annual Report, you will see a number of accomplishments that reflect how we are working together to build a better future.

Our **2020 Vision** efforts are an example of how strong partnerships result in better outcomes. **2020 Vision** is a joint effort of the City, the Berkeley Unified School District, and the University of California to eliminate the achievement gap in Berkeley public schools by the year 2020. We have aligned many City services with this goal and are working with community agencies to do the same.

The economic volatility of the last several years has made for hard budget choices, including the elimination of over 200 City staff positions, yet Berkeley has weathered the storm better than many. Nevertheless, it will take time and strategic thinking to restore our long-term fiscal health. We will continue to implement structural efficiencies such as the recent consolidation of the Health Department with the Housing & Community Services Department. The new Department includes services for the aging, the oversight of

community services provided by non-profit agencies, housing services, and mental, environmental and public health services. This consolidation results in administrative cost savings and better coordination of services to provide an improved continuum of care to Berkeley residents.

You will also see new money-saving improvements on the street. When it came time to replace aging refuse trucks, we took the opportunity to analyze the City's collection routes. The new trucks run cleaner and require fewer staff to operate. The new routes are more efficient and save City funds.

I encourage you to take a look at the City's work plan ([www.CityofBerkeley.info/workplan/](http://www.CityofBerkeley.info/workplan/)) for a complete description of services, programs, and projects that every City department is undertaking this year. Our budget and work plan goal is to meet today's needs and plan for tomorrow's. Many projects are due to be completed soon (Animal Shelter) and others are just starting (Bay Trail extension).

As we look for creative ways to provide core services and new programs, we appreciate your feedback about how we are doing. We have a great challenge and opportunity in planning for the future. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

*Christine Daniel*

City Manager,  
[Manager@CityofBerkeley.info](mailto:Manager@CityofBerkeley.info)

## Education

To improve kindergarten readiness (one of eight **2020 Vision** indicators) the City successfully applied for a First 5 Alameda County Grant and created **Pre-K Power Play**. The program is free for participants and is designed to develop self-regulation and literacy skills for young children ages 3-5 years old. In its first eight sessions, this program has served 288 children and demonstrated very promising results for increasing self-regulation, literacy, self-care, and motor skills, all of which are important for a child's readiness for kindergarten. For more information, go to: [www.CityofBerkeley.info/Recreation](http://www.CityofBerkeley.info/Recreation)



## Building Partnerships

### Business

Business Improvement Districts (BID) are one way that the City and local businesses work together to improve the vitality of retail neighborhoods. When a BID is established, the City continues to provide baseline services, and the business and property owners pay for enhanced maintenance and beautification services. Berkeley has several examples of successful BID partnerships:

**Downtown Berkeley**, which just started operations this year, has already done much to beautify the Downtown, including installation of 180 flower baskets and 88 colorful street banners, as well as steam-cleaning sidewalks and daily litter pick-up.



**North Shattuck** continues its tradition of great public events such as the Chocolate and Chalk Art Festival. This year North Shattuck introduced Offthe-Grid, an eclectic assortment of food trucks that assemble on Shattuck at Rose Street and serve a popular assortment of ethnic and gourmet foods.

**Telegraph** received a U.C. Chancellor's Grant to design and implement a new decorative lighting project to produce a better pedestrian experience and provide WIFI to local shoppers and visitors.

**Solano** was reauthorized by the Council this year. The new BID Board plans to use its funds for special public improvements including installation of new street trees, treewells, and landscaping to provide an attractive experience for residents and shoppers.

**Elmwood** was originally created to finance the purchase and restoration of the historic Elmwood theater. That goal was successfully met and the area continues to thrive.

### Community

Using State funding, the City is working with community agencies on Innovation Grants designed to provide increased access and new approaches to mental health services. Some of Berkeley's Innovation programs include:

**African American Community Empowerment Academy** for South Berkeley residents which draws on cultural heritage, creates peer mentors, and empowers community members.

**Wellness Strategy for Asian Pacific Islanders** to co-locate new mental health services with other existing health and community services.

**Re-entry Program for Veterans and for Ex-Offenders** which utilizes informal community building and peer mentoring.

**Improved Access Project for LGBTQ Individuals** that provides training to staff and utilizes supervised interns to provide free mental health services at existing service sites.

**Adult/Older Adult Board and Care Nutrition Project** which partners a local culinary school with board and care facilities to assist mental health clients in creating better nutritional habits and better treatment outcomes.

**Senior-to-Senior Program** to reduce isolation and increase access to services for older adults through social media technologies and associated peer support.

**Trauma-informed Holistic Health Care Delivery Model for Transition-age Youth** which provides tangible skills to help prevent future trauma.

Improvements to streets, parks and public buildings are happening across the City. Here are a few notable examples:

## Neighborhood Libraries:

Measure FF, passed by voters in 2008, provided the necessary funds to bring all neighborhood branch libraries up to current seismic and ADA accessibility standards, as well as to make the buildings environmentally friendly. The North and Claremont branches are complete. The South and West branches are currently under construction.

## Street Improvements:

The City relies on funds from various sources to pay for street repaving; these include state gas taxes, federal transportation funds, and the City's General Fund. In 2012, the City spent over \$1.3 million in Measure B funds (Alameda County Sales Tax) on repaving projects and obtained federal funds to repave Sacramento Street.

[www.CityofBerkeley.info/MeasureB](http://www.CityofBerkeley.info/MeasureB)

## Bike Racks:

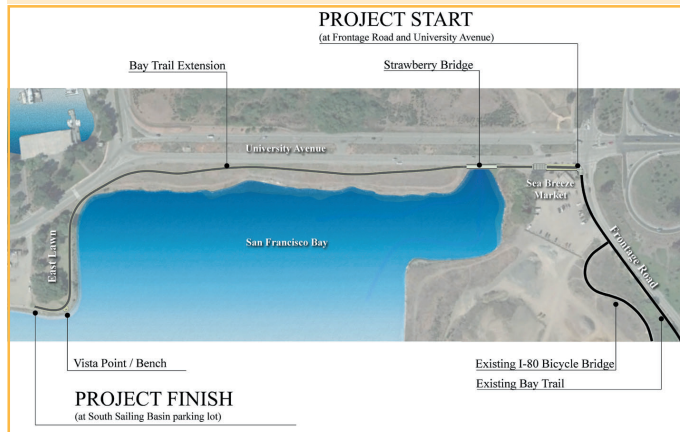


The Department of Public Works is currently installing bicycle racks citywide

at locations requested by cyclists, merchants, and property owners. Between January 1 and December 31, 2012, the City will have installed 292 new bicycle racks, providing space for 636 bicycles at schools, parks, bus stops, and shopping districts.

[www.CityofBerkeley.info/bikeparking](http://www.CityofBerkeley.info/bikeparking)

## Berkeley Bay Trail Extension Project



Phase One of the Bay Trail Extension project includes a multi-use trail and a footbridge over the Strawberry culvert, south of University Avenue and will provide a

safer, more convenient and ADA-accessible connection from the Bike Bridge and the Bay Trail to the Berkeley Marina. The first segment of the trail goes through Eastshore State Park and ends at the parking lot by the South Sailing Cove. Funding for design and construction was provided by federal transportation funds (STIP-TE), grants from the State Coastal Conservancy and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), and the City of Berkeley.

## Dona Spring Animal Shelter:



The City's new animal shelter crowns the north end of Aquatic Park and features

artist renderings of animal profiles that are easily visible from I-80.

## Parking Garages:



City-owned garages downtown and near Telegraph became more efficient this

year. In addition to cleaning, painting, improved signs and increased lighting, a new computer system allows for automated entry and exit and facility monitoring.

[www.CityofBerkeley.info/parking](http://www.CityofBerkeley.info/parking)

## San Pablo Park Basketball Courts:



Smooth new courts, backboards, rims and nets make for great basketball

games at San Pablo Park. Using funding from Measure WW, the courts, benches and lighting were all renovated.





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## Expanded Online Services

### Online Service Center:

Our online services keep growing: You can now reserve park and picnic sites, sign up for recreation classes, report pot holes, graffiti, and broken parking meters, schedule building inspections, pay parking tickets, look up phone numbers, and apply for City jobs. The Online Service Center can be found at: [www.CityofBerkeley.info/onlineservicecenter](http://www.CityofBerkeley.info/onlineservicecenter)

### Online Crime Reporting and CrimeView Community:

You can now file police reports online for certain non-emergency crimes such as car break-ins, bicycle thefts, vandalism, and identity theft. If the crime occurred in Berkeley, there are no known witnesses or suspect leads, and you have an email address, you can use the Online Crime Reporting System. You will receive a police report by email and it will be reviewed in two business days. If more investigation is needed, you will be contacted directly. Please remember, this is for certain non-emergency crimes only. For emergencies or crimes in progress, call 911 or (510) 981-5911. You can also search for information about crime in the City of Berkeley for the previous six-month period using the City's enhanced CrimeView Community website. You can find information by type, location, and date with the easy-to-use mapping tool. The CyberWatch feature also allows you to create customized email alerts for activity in an area you specify. For more information go to: [www.CityofBerkeley.info/police](http://www.CityofBerkeley.info/police)

