

# San Jose Redevelopment Agency

## neighborhood project fact sheet



Construction:  
April 1998

Completion:  
November 1999

**Project:** **Biblioteca Latinoamericana & Washington Area Youth Center**

**Description:** The project has been transformed from a small book collection at Sacred Heart Church, to a San Jose Library branch inside a school cafeteria, and finally to one of the largest collections of Spanish language materials in Northern California, bringing the dream of Los Amigos de la Biblioteca Latinoamericana to fruition.

Los Amigos and The Washington Area Youth Center have collaborated with the San Jose Redevelopment Agency to create a full service recreational and learning facility for the entire community.

**Location:** 921 S. First Street  
Washington Strong Neighborhood

**Benefit:** With its multifaceted purpose and program, the Biblioteca & Youth Center exemplifies the Redevelopment Agency's work in creating family-friendly public spaces and encouraging collaboration among community organizations. In addition, this culturally rich facility extends the successful revitalization of Downtown further south into the Washington-Guadalupe neighborhood. The center serves as the cornerstone for the neighborhood's homes, restaurants, shops, and elementary school.

**Features:** 1.7- acre facility for recreation and learning includes:

- 17,000 square-foot youth center offering a gymnasium, multi-purpose room, boxing ring, weight and game rooms, television lounge, counseling & staff offices
- 15,000 square-foot library showcasing bilingual materials, a technology/computer area, and
- Comprehensive collection on Latino culture & countries

**Total Costs:** \$16.3 million  
\$15.3 million from the San Jose Redevelopment Agency  
\$1 million from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

**Project Team:**

Council District:	3
Developer:	San Jose Redevelopment Agency
Architect:	Steven Ehrlich Architecture - Santa Monica Garcia Teague Architecture + Interiors - San Jose
Contractor:	Alvarado Construction Inc.
Owner:	City of San José