MISSION BRANCH LIBRARY RENNOVATION PROJECT
PUBLIC ART PROJECT

INTEGRATED-WALL GLASS ARTWORK + CONSERVATION

AS-INSTALLED

VISUAL ARTS COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 18, 2026



MISSION BRANCH LIBRARY

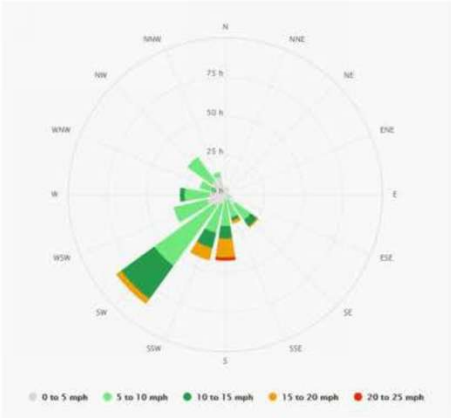
VEHICULAR & FOOT TRAFFIC

WIND DIRECTION

SUN PATH

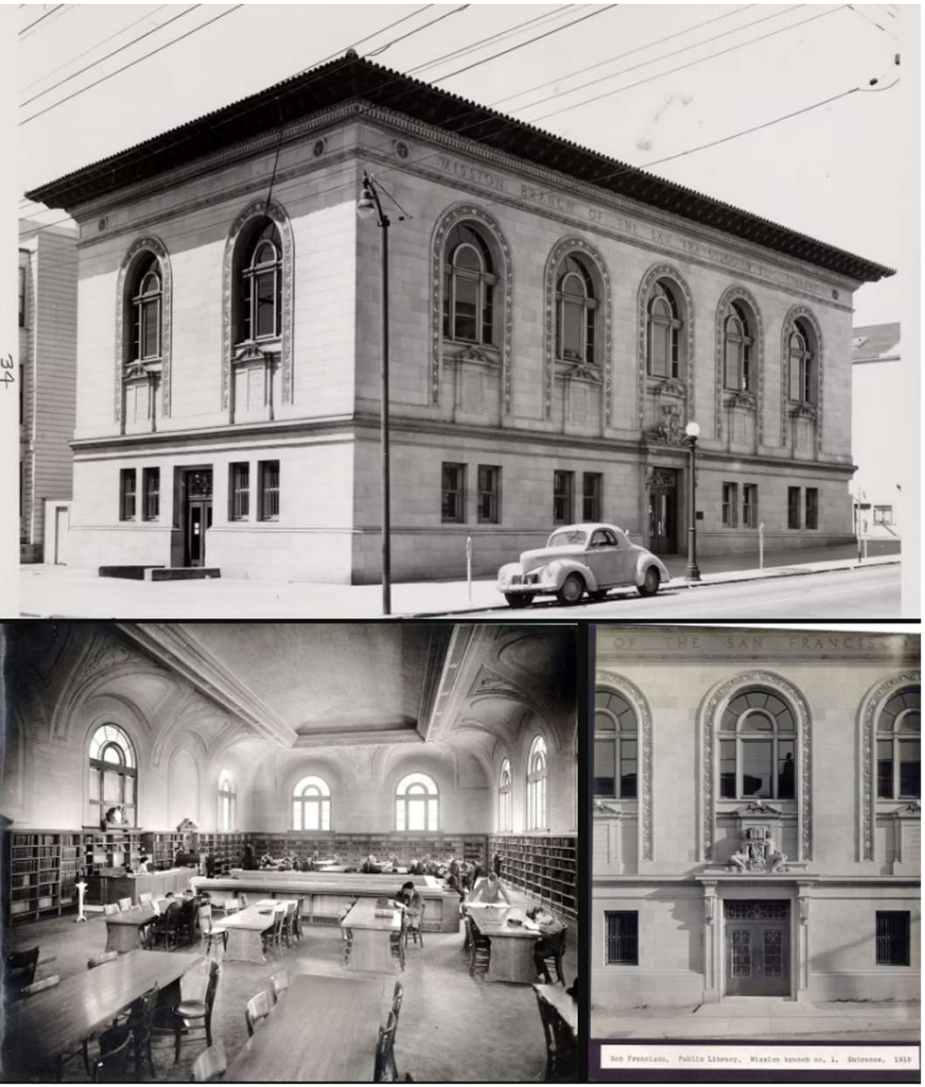
NOISE

WIND ROSE - SF



LOCATION MAP







Mission Branch Library, 1915 (left); Grand Reopening, 2026 (right)



Schematic renderings of the first floor Community Room, with framed artworks by Emmanuel C. Montoya

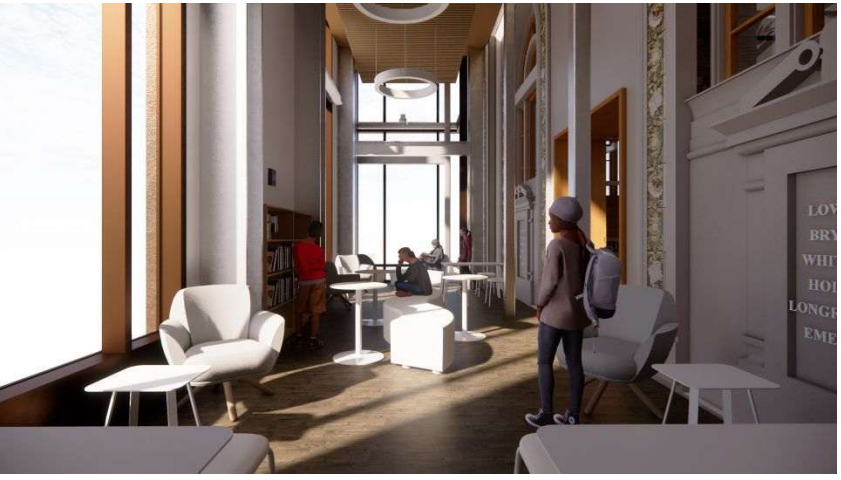






Rendering of the renovated Main Reading Room

Rendering of the renovated Main Reading Room











Juana Alicia in her studio (left); Portrait in front of *Santuario/Sanctuary* (top right); Women's Building, Mission District (bottom right)

Art Proposal for the MISSION BRANCH LIBRARY PUBLIC ART PROJECT

NOPAL DE LA MISIÓN

Artist: Juana Alicia

"As a glowing window at the center of the library's world of words, the nopal will tell a story, combining both legend and literature"



Original stairs and window

My vision for the window in the Main Reading Room of the Mission Library is that of a monumental nopal or prickly pear cactus, full of both flowers and fruit. As a glowing window at the center of the library's world of words, the nopal tells a story, combining both legend and literature. The powerful cactus tree has many meanings for people all over the world, but particularly for those of Mexican heritage. The nopal is a central element in our origin story: it is a symbol of resistance under difficult conditions, a tree that blooms in the desert, serves as delicious and nutritious sustenance and regenerates easily. In the window design, I pay homage to the Optunia Violacea variety of the nopal, which is a beautiful violet color. It will bring the vibrant life of the natural world to the library environment, offering its yellow flowers with red, star-shaped centers to the creative, intellectual and community-oriented space of the reading room.

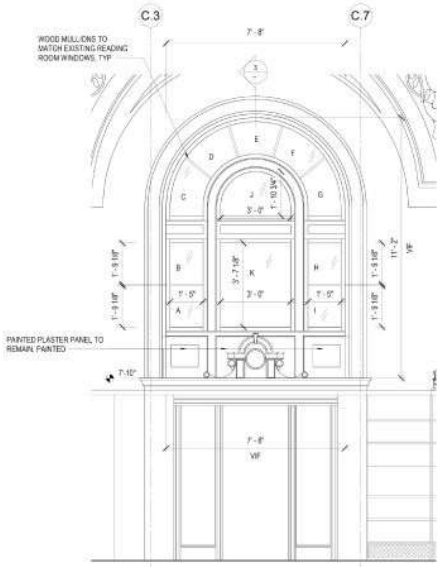
The five panes of the window will be made of fused glass layers that are baked in a kiln to produce highly saturated, refractive and textured surfaces. The layers are both painted and "collaged" with cutout pieces, like the fruit or tunas of the nopal, some of the flower petals, the tiny seeds on the fruit and other details.

Because we live in the tech center of the country, I would like to explore making the artwork accessible through contemporary channels to the widest audience possible. I would investigate creating an online audio tour, accessible through QR code, so that the glass mural and its meanings would be available to low-vision or blind individuals, as well as the general public.



Proposed window design, "Nopal de la Misión", Juana Alicia ©2021

Color palette



Architect's rendering of window Mission Branch Library



Artist's concept of window design



Final Design, 2025 (right); *NOPAL DE LA MISIÓN* watercolor, 2021 in the building addition Teen Room, 2026 (right)



NOPAL DE LA MISIÓN in the Main Reading Room, 2026







Juana Alicia with fabricator Kimberley Jackman of Jackman Glassworks, 2026







Juana Alicia with fabricator Kimberley Jackman of Jackman Glassworks, 2026







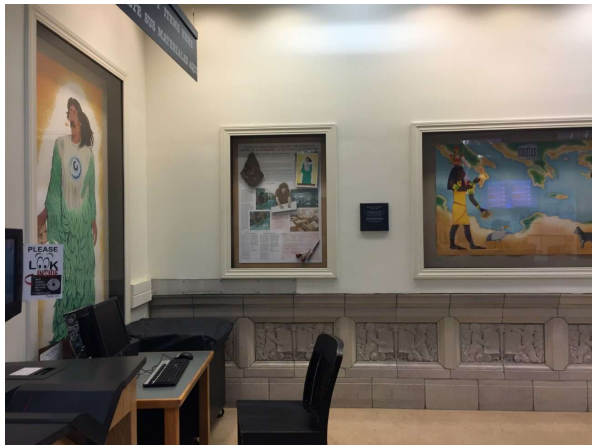
Installation with SFPW, SJ Amoroso, and US Glass at Mission Branch Library, 2026


EMMANUEL




JUAN PABLO'S







Deities of Knowledge, Culture and Literature as-installed at the Mission Branch Library, 1999 - 2021



Before Treatment: recto, overall, mounted



After Treatment: recto, overall

Egypt's Contribution to European Civilization
La contribución de Egipto a la civilización europea
© 1999
Mixed media color Lino-cut print
Grabado en linóleo a color con técnica mixta
1999.8.1



Before Treatment: recto, overall, mounted



After Treatment: recto, overall

Quetzalcoatl: Pre-Colombian Deity of Knowledge and Culture / Quetzalcóatl: Deidad precolombina del conocimiento y la cultura
© 1997
Mixed media color Lino-cut print
Grabado en linóleo a color con técnica mixta
1999.8.2



Before Treatment: recto, overall, mounted



After Treatment: recto, overall

Wen Ch'ang: Chinese Deity of Literature
Wen Ch'ang: Deidad china de la literatura
© 1999
Mixed media color Lino-cut print
Grabado en linóleo a color con técnica mixta
1999.8.3






30 DAY ORGANIZER





Deities of Knowledge, Culture and Literature as-installed at the Mission Branch Library, 2026



Juana Alicia and Emmanuel C. Montoya, *SANTUARIO/SANTUARY* (2000), at the San Francisco International Airport






Mission
Branch
Library



