

Mayor Coleman Announces West 7th Library Grand Reopening

Renovations provided 15 more computers and 520 additional square feet

SAINT PAUL - St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman and the Saint Paul Public Libraries are hosting a community grand reopening reception at the West 7th Library at 4 p.m., Thursday, May 6, 265 Oneida St.

"Libraries are a cornerstone of any strong community. These renovations allowed us to create a facility that is better suited to assist the community. Whether for educational opportunities, job training, computer access or event to stop in and grab a good book to read; the West Seventh Library is an investment in the future of our residents," Mayor Chris Coleman said.

The renovated space offers new shelving and reading areas, as well as 15 more computer work stations. The additional 520 square feet added to the library provided a separate computer lab with its own entrance, so it can be open when the library is closed. The computer lab will be available for free public Internet access, word processing and free computer classes.

With financial support from the Minnesota Legacy Amendment Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, West 7th Library worked with a local artist to help area students create public art for the new library space. The public art was recently installed.

The renovation was possible through a partnership with the West 7th Community Center and the City of Saint Paul. While space is provided by the Community Center, the expansion was supported with a federally funded Community Block Development Grant that the City of St. Paul applied for and received. Additionally, the Library was awarded a Gates Foundation grant to purchase computer equipment that provided additional community access to computers and classes.

The West 7th branch hours will be Monday and Thursday, 12:30 to 8 p.m., Tuesday, 11:30 to 5:30 p.m., Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The branch is closed on weekends.