

Draft Support Letter for Friends of Hoover-Durant Library

To: Whom it May Concern
From: Oakland Library Advisory Commission

Dear Sir or Madam,

After meeting with the Friends of Hoover-Durant Library and hearing their presentation regarding their desire to create a new library branch, we wish to express our support as a commission. The Hoover neighborhood, which for almost 100 years, supported a branch called North Oakland Branch Library on San Pablo Avenue as well as a smaller nearby Telegrove Branch at 33rd and Grove Streets, has been without a local branch library Since 1981. In a predominately low-income neighborhood (Exhibit 1) which has been subject to “years of racially-motivated systemic disinvestment and institutional redlining,” a library, with the employment and educational services it provides and community environment it fosters, is a necessity.

As Oakland faces the pressure of gentrification and redevelopment, public libraries can promote neighborhood cohesiveness by providing services and community building space for both existing and arriving residents in the area, and Hoover-Durant is a diverse neighborhood which really wants to find a way to both preserve its history while welcoming newcomers.

The Friends of Hoover-Durant have demonstrated their commitment to this project with their community outreach, ongoing presentations and “street corner libraries,” and we applaud their energy and enthusiasm, and will support them in whatever way we can as they go forward in their fundraising and development efforts.

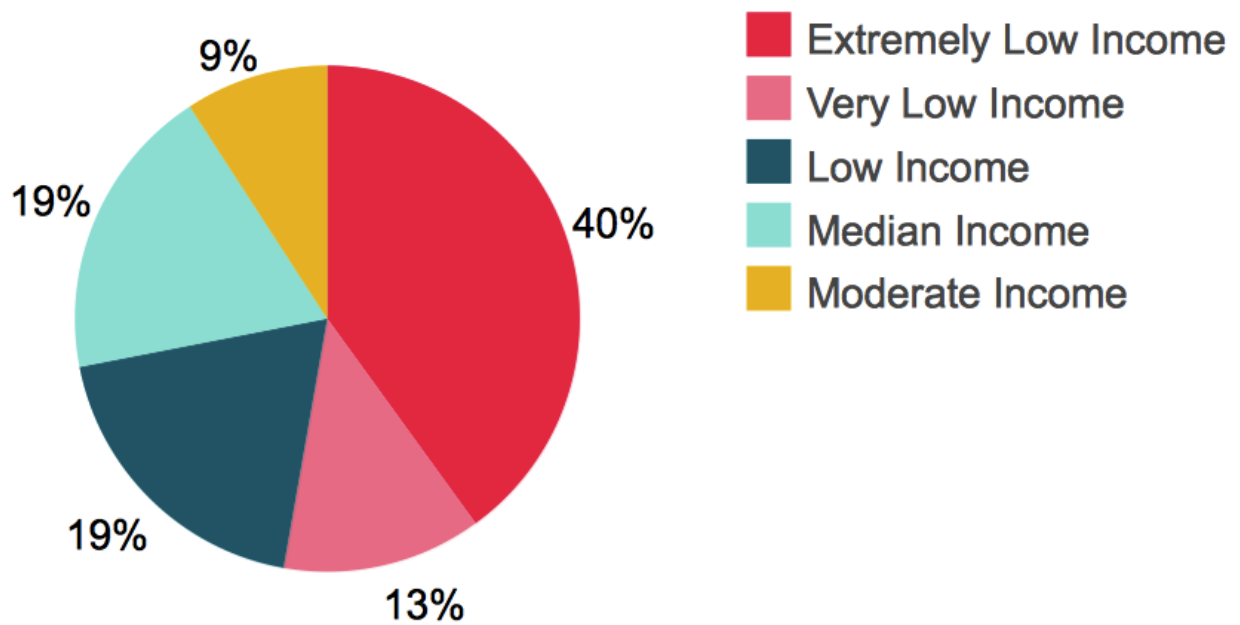
Sincerely,

Lesley Mandros Bell
Chairperson, Oakland Library Advisory Commission

Attachment: Exhibit 1 – Neighborhood Household Income Levels

Exhibit 1

Neighborhood Household Income Levels



Source: survey conducted by EBALDC in 2016