

About the Cover

Brand Library & Art Center

In the midst of the City of Glendale's verdant Brand Park sits Brand Library & Art Center, the art and music section of the Library, Arts & Culture Department. The oldest section of the facility is Miradero—a Spanish reference to a high place overlooking an extensive view—a 5,000 square foot mansion built by Leslie Coombs Brand in 1904. When he died in 1925, Brand left his home and adjacent land to the City for use as a public park and library.

In 1956, Brand Library & Art Center opened to the public and has been serving music and art lovers from across Southern California ever since. Facilities at Brand Library & Art Center include an Art and Music Library, Art Galleries, Recital Hall and a unique outdoor performance Plaza. Activities in the Center's Art Studios are programmed by the Community Services and Parks Department. Brand Library & Art Center sponsors many events that are free and open to the public including art exhibitions, concerts, art & music lectures, dance events, films, computer classes, children's events and tours of the historic site. Brand Library is staffed by art and music subject specialist librarians and has over 110,000 items, including books, scores, DVDs, CDs, LPs, magazines, and a variety of online databases specific to the arts.

In 2012, the City of Glendale engaged architectural firm Gruen Associates to lead the highly anticipated renovation of the Brand Library, in partnership with Offenhauser/Mekeel Architects, specialists in architectural design in authentic styles. The \$9.5 million dollar, two-year renovation project included long overdue seismic bracing; a new HVAC system; a new roof; new plumbing, data, and electrical systems; and accessibility enhancements. Brand Library & Art Center reopened on March 27, 2014.

Architectural photographs by Nico Marques/Photekt.

