

# Project Profile:

Exposition Park Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Library  
Los Angeles Public Library System



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## Profile

Reopened in August 2008, the Exposition Park Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Library has been hailed by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa as the first “green” building in South Los Angeles to receive the U.S. Green Building Council’s prestigious LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) “Gold” rating for its environmentally sustainable design and “green” features, such as:

- Daylight Harvesting lighting control technology with automatic light fixture dimming and naturally lit reading rooms reducing energy consumption by 27%;
- A 44-kW solar photovoltaic power plant with solar panels producing more than 57,000 kW hours per year;
- High-efficiency mechanical systems and double glazing windows with high efficiency glass coatings.

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## Project at a Glance

- Building Type: Library
- Location: Los Angeles, CA
- Size: 14,500 sq. feet.

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## Objective

- Environmentally sustainable designs
- Green lighting control & design features
- Reduced energy consumption

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## Solutions

- Intuitive dimming & control features
- Sensors and photocells with extended sensitivity
- Remotely programmable system interface



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# Taking the Gold in the Green Race

**Exposition Park Library is South L.A.'s first "green" building to receive LEED "gold" rating**

## Objectives

The Exposition Park Library Branch required a user-friendly lighting control system that would blend automated and manual lighting controls with state-of-the-art daylight harvesting capabilities. National studies have shown a double digit increase in student comprehension when natural daylight is introduced (both skylights and windows with a view). To ensure maximum energy savings the library wanted electric lighting to be automatically turned off in the reading areas when natural light is sufficient and wanted manual overrides to be disabled except during special events:

1. During audio/visual presentations the library needed the ability to dim down the lights or switch them off in order to maintain the appropriate light level.
2. Special events requiring time schedule or programming changes had to be easy and quick without relying on staff training or a costly site visit by the electrician.

## Solutions

LC&D's GR 2400 digital lighting control system was the ideal choice to meet not only the "green" requirements of this LEED Gold project but to also meet the needs required by the library staff. The GR 2400 master relay panel, along with the MicroPanel™ provides a unique approach, allowing controls to be distributed throughout the building, while being linked together as a single system. This minimizes the need for home run wiring while maximizing the ability to reduce energy consumption by controlling individual zones and providing needed flexibility. The Universal Indoor Photosensor, with its extended sensitivity, can be remotely accessed by the GR 2400 system for proper commissioning and adjustments. The KeyEnable™ Switch was provided to allow library staff to enable/disable local controls and the Chelsea DigitalSwitch replaced the need for multi-gang switches. Lighting Control & Designs GR 2400 System comes with free lifetime dial up programming. All the seasonal schedule changes, daylight harvesting adjustments and special events can be re-programmed by our support department with just a phone call.

## About Exposition Park Library

Named in honor of Dr. Mary Bethune McLeod, a nationally respected educator and racial justice activist, the library houses the Los Angeles Public Library's 19th Adult Literacy Center offering free programs, tutoring and materials to improve reading, writing, arithmetic and other literacy skills.

“

Libraries are safe havens where we can explore the world around us. The Exposition Park Library will be the soul of this community — a neighborhood center where all are welcome. The library is a ... living laboratory that proves we can build in a way that will sustain us in the future.

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Mayor Antonio Villairagosa  
City of Los Angeles



As well as being "green", the Exposition Park Library met the LEED "gold" rating for its construction.



According to national studies the use of skylights and windows can lead to an increase in reading level abilities and a significant decrease in energy usage.