

Jamaica library breaks ground on kids' center

BY IVAN PEREIRA

Borough President Helen Marshall joined some of the borough's brightest learners at the Central Library in Jamaica Monday to commence construction on the branch's high-tech children's center.

The Children's Library Discovery Center will be a new addition to the branch's children's section, which focuses primarily on science education. The 14,000-square-foot, two-story facility will feature rotating science exhibits, hands-on experiments and state-of-the-art computers, microscopes and other pieces of technology for the city's future scientists.

"This library will open up their minds and stimulate their intellectual nourishment," Marshall said.

The \$38 million facility, scheduled to open later this year, was funded by several city leaders, including Marshall and City Councilman Leroy Comrie (D-St. Albans).

Comrie, who gave more than \$14 million to the project, said the new addition to the Central Library was important not only to the young boys and girls in his district, but the entire borough.

According to Comrie, Queens does not have enough free and modern science and math centers aimed at students, so the discovery center will greatly complement the curriculum within city schools.

"It's a resource that Queens needs to have," Comrie said of the center. "Technology has increased and our needs have increased."



Photo by Christina Santucci

Councilman Leroy Comrie (l) helps Jamaica students break ground for the Central Library's new children science center as Queens Public Library Director Thomas Galante (c.) and Borough President Helen Marshall chat about the project.