

# Hurricane Katrina

*A Decade of Progress through Partnerships*

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## Biloxi Civic Center and Library

580 Ward Avenue, Biloxi, Miss. 39530

Applicant: City of Biloxi      FEMA Funding: **\$3.7 million**  
Harrison County

**BACKGROUND:** Since its dedication in July 2011, the Biloxi Civic Center and Library has become a vibrant cultural hub for the residents of Biloxi. Known for its innovative use of open space, the 83,629 square foot complex has a vast courtyard for outdoor events and a large ballroom that can be subdivided into three separate sections to support multiple activities. In 2011 the center was given an “Excellence in Construction” award for its state-of-the-art architecture by the Mississippi Associated Builders and Contractors Association.

**THE DAMAGE:** Katrina’s storm surge flooded approximately three to four feet of the old two-story Biloxi library, damaging walls, the floor and contents. The Biloxi senior and recreational centers were also destroyed.



Nearly 30,000 historic hard-to-replace books, documents and microfilm had water damage. The library system received a Public Assistance grant for the replacement of contents.

**FEMA FUNDING:** The Public Assistance grant program provided the new facility with **\$2.6 million** for the building and **\$1.1 million** for site work. The center’s new exterior is made of stucco over concrete masonry units with impact-resistant

windows and the ballroom is constructed with long span steel trusses to help resist damage against future storms.

