Los Angeles Public Library News

Teens Leading Change: The Next Generation of Active Participants

“Teens are learning about their ability to have a voice and to make a difference in the world in the years immediately preceding having the ability to vote and participate more actively in our democracy.”

—John F. Szabo

On June 2nd the Library Foundation and Los Angeles Public Library invited Angelenos to add their personal mark to the Library’s autograph collection – and to history. 19 Library locations participated in “Autograph Day,” welcoming patrons to “improve” a piece of original stationery recreated for this project. In turn patrons contributed drawings, poems, photos, and more. Autograph Day served as the unofficial kick off to “The Autograph Book of L.A.,” officially launching in spring of 2019. This project will include a city-wide conversation and a book that will draw from the Los Angeles Public Library’s Autograph Collection to help us think about the culture, history and politics of the Los Angeles region and the importance of its creativity, as expressed on paper.

On the poster of an autograph book, the Library has written: “Autograph Day asks Angelinos to Leave their Mark.”

This Page Is Yours: Autograph Day Asks Angelinos to Leave their Mark

Thanks to our dedicated sponsors and donors, the Stay Home and Read a Book Ball’s 30th Anniversary was the most successful in the history of our beloved “non-event.” To date, the Library Foundation has raised over $122,000 and counting. Incoming funds will continue to count through the end of the fiscal year.

If you have not yet added your support for the Stay Home and Read a Book Ball, there’s still time to donate by texting the word “Library” to 41444 now. The Stay Home and Read a Book Ball directly supports cultural and educational programming offered at the Los Angeles Public Library, including the ALQUD literary series. Donors help increase literacy for all ages, help students succeed, and help provide free access to programs and services for millions of children, teens, and adults throughout our community.

“I think back to a few years ago and if you’d had said, ‘let’s talk about civics,’ my reaction and others’ reactions would have been a big yawny,” says City Librarian John F. Stabo. “But in recent years we’ve seen a recognition and a renewal in people’s understandings of the importance of civics and knowing how our democracy works.” Stabo believes this awakening has underscored the important role that the public library plays in our nation’s democracy. “We welcome everyone and we happily serve everyone – because of those values it gives us an opportunity to do great things within our communities.”

With five pilot projects underway right now across city branches, teens are working closely with Young Adult Librarians to design their own community projects based around important issues they have identified. The teens apply for grants to equip themselves with the resources and tools they need to implement solutions. “The teens are learning about our democracy and about civics not just through a book or the school or through a lecture in a meeting room, but rather through exercising their own power, and their own authority, and their own voice, and their own influence to make a difference in their community.” says Stabo.

Teens at the Northridge Branch Library hosted their first community clean-up as part of the project “Northridge Trashbusters.” Their aim is to examine possible correlations between community pride, cleanliness, and crime. “This is definitely different than anything we’ve ever done before with the teens because it’s actually going out to the Northridge community and trying to affect positive change,” says Northridge’s Young Adult Librarian Cindy Holsey. “The issue of litter bothered the teens and because this was their idea, they are really invested in it and they’re excited about ways to make a difference.” One of the teens behind “Northridge Trashbusters” is Naima Bukhari, an 11th grader at Woodland Hills High School. “I think it’s a healthy thing for civic discourse, civics education, and more broadly a healthy democracy.”

Teens Leading Change is funded through the Future Leaders Fund, established by Lennie and Bernie Greenberg.
When you think of museums in Downtown L.A., “At the Los Angeles Pigeon Club, the participants call themselves fanciers. Many of them gather recently at the 72nd annual Pigeon Fair at the Ontario Convention Center, bringing over 4,000 fancy pigeons along with them. One of the joys of exploring collections that are made available to the public is the opportunity for a glimpse into the worlds that are constructed around us.”

“There are many “collections” which are so popular they warrant clubs of like-minded individuals, who meet regularly to revel in their shared passion. While historical bottles may not be among those endorsed with a fancy name (such as “coligat” for a collector of eggs, or “digitabulist” for a collector of thumbs), there is enough interest in this form of everyday archaeology to keep the L.A. branch meeting for their 50th consecutive year.”

“When you think of museums in Downtown L.A., chances are the Streetlight Museum (operated by the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Street Lighting) isn’t the first thing that comes to mind. But this smaller-scale collection provokes by simply placing like objects in the context of one another, helping to illuminate elements of our City’s history, and its future.”

Branching Out: 8 Collections to Visit This Summer

“Pictured here is the Sento Shogen—the 1,000 lamp memorial at Benihin Buddhist Temple’s annual Obon Festival, a Buddhist tradition honoring one’s ancestors. Visitors to the Temple are invited to help light these small oil lamps, and this collective act shows the powerful effect of a shared passion. While historical bottles are inviting to look at, they are not often directly engaging to physically go and see.”

“Reading Takes You Everywhere” will inspire kids to journey to new worlds through innovative STEAM programming, at special story times with Dodger players and alumni, or through the Summer Authors Series where kids and teens engage with local authors and illustrators. As we launch into a season of exploration, we checked in with two of this summer’s upcoming special guests, Los Angeles Dodgers starting pitcher Rich Hill and Aditi Khorana, the author of the young adult novels The Library of Flours and Mirror in the Sky. We talked from their respective fields to talk about the transformative power of books.

As a baseball player and an author, how did reading and going to libraries play a seminal role in both of your childhoods?

Hill: As a kid I enjoyed going to the library. The library gives me an outlet to discover places, people, and time periods that I could not physically go and see.

Khorana: I came to this country as an immigrant when I was three years old, and one of my mother’s favorite activities was going to the Flushing Public Library in Queens, New York every day with me after school. I got my first stack of books. My mother truly endorsed the idea that Vartan Gregorian, former president of the Los Angeles Public Library and university dedicated to the Truth Seekers of All Time."

School is out of session, but it’s “Summer at the Library,” which means that tens of thousands of children, teens, and families will take part in fun and educational activities at all 72 branches and Central Library. By helping to mitigate the summer slide, the Los Angeles Public Library ensures that young people don’t miss out on valuable learning experiences and crucial support, including five free hours for youth up to 18 years at 16 libraries this summer.

This year’s reading challenge theme, “Reading Takes You Everywhere,” will inspire kids to journey to new worlds through innovative STEAM programming, at special story times with Dodger players and alumni, or through the Summer Authors Series where kids and teens engage with local authors and illustrators. As we launch into a season of exploration, we checked in with two of this summer’s upcoming special guests, Los Angeles Dodgers starting pitcher Rich Hill and Aditi Khorana, the author of the young adult novels The Library of Flours and Mirror in the Sky. We talked from their respective fields to talk about the transformative power of books.

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Tools: What was California’s involvement in the Civil War? You both know first-hand the role in both of your childhoods?

Hill: In order to become good at something you have to perform the act or skill thousands of times. To perform the act or skill properly requires many different outlets, one of those being reading. For me, just to practice the skill physically was not enough. So being a pitcher, reading about how a ball spins and why a ball spins or moves has been very beneficial to my game.

Khorana: When I really love a book, I’m transported to a different world. I live among the characters created in someone else’s mind, and as a result, I can feel my own brain changing, my ideas shifting, my own world somehow growing. Virginia Woolf has this great quote I’m obsessed with, “I am rooted but I flow.” The best books have a way of yoking us to our own reality while simultaneously allowing us to explore worlds, ideas, and ways of being that we normally wouldn’t have a chance to in our day-to-day lives. Reading books has taught me to go deeper into this world and understand it in a way that I otherwise wouldn’t.

“Summer at the Library” helps students remain committed to reading over school break. You both know first-hand the importance of hard work, focus, and practice. Do you have any advice for young people about how to stay committed to learning?

Hill: Commitment is all-the-time thing. First, you must find what it is you are passionate about. Find out what you are excited about doing every day you wake up. The major thing that I have to say over my professional career in finishes has become something that I have learned from over and over. Do not be afraid of making mistakes. You do not have to be perfect to be successful. Failure is going to happen, but if you are passionate about what it is you are doing you will continue to move forward.

Khorana: I agree with Rich that passion is the key to everything. Writing is solitary work, writing a novel is painstaking. Of course it’s also rewording and creative fun, and it takes a high level of commitment. It’s not work that can be done in a day or a week or even a month. Focus can be hard, hard work can feel like a drag, practice can be tedious and redundant. But do it long enough and something cracks open. I think it actually is your heart. Some sort of magic happens when we make the decision to tie our passions to commitment, to focus, to grit. The reward isn’t the accomplishment, even though I do believe that this is ultimately the key to success. The real reward is in who we become if we commit ourselves truly to what we love.

“Summer at the Library” takes place from June 4 through August 4. Learn more at lapl.org/summer.
The Council Welcomes New President Kelly Anderson

In History. After graduating, she worked briefly for a family planning clinic in Atlanta before moving to Washington D.C. where she became a lobbyist for the National Organization for Women (NOW). She attended law school in Boston and passed the bar, intending to return to D.C. to work, but instead moved to Los Angeles with her family and began “reterritory” to raise her two sons. Once they were older, she worked one of her all-time favorite jobs at Village Books, an independent bookstore in the Pacific Palisades. When the bookstore closed she was desperate to find other ways to surround herself with books, book-lovers, and authors.

“I believe literary fiction and memoir, my two favorite genres, can increase our understanding and awareness of other people, other cultures, and other places in the world, but reading has also helped me better understand people and places much closer to home,” says Anderson. “Being a reader is a never-ending education for me and I am hugely grateful for all I am able to learn from books.”

In addition to her work with the Library Foundation, Anderson attends The Council’s monthly programs and events. After some planning with Lodwick M. Cook, Founding Chairman of the Library Foundation, “The Council” was officially formed on November 4, 1994.

The activities of The Council included fall and spring membership meetings and 4-6 author programs during the September-May season in the Central Library’s Taper Room by dinners with the author. Charter Members included Caroline Alhansan, Nancy Linton, Joan Smith, Flora Thornton, Nancy Vielenk and Library Foundation Executive Director Robin Hoffman. Joan Smith became the first President.

1997 was the 125th Anniversary of the founding of the Los Angeles Public Library. The Council participated by hosting its first series of citywide dinners to benefit library programs for children, youth, and families. The dinners were so successful that they have continued biannually and are currently known as The Literary Feasts.

The Council has recently completed its 24th season of literary programs which now includes 8-9 luncheons or dinners with an author. The group has grown dramatically with 44 charter members in 1995 and in 2018 has over 400 members.

The Council’s contribution to the Los Angeles Public Library has grown exponentially. Council members have been responsible for securing more than $30 million in contributions for Los Angeles Public Library programs and services since 1994.

The Council’s mission is to provide free access to ideas and information. What role do you think public libraries play in times of crisis or in standing up to injustice? Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha

“...We are not a society that values children and values public health; that has been a lesson for Flint that must be shared.”

Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha: In conversation with journalist Geoffrey Mukam, Los Angeles Times

RESERVE TICKETS AT LFLA.ORG/ALOUD

EVENT DETAILS

Date: Monday, July 16, 2018
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: Central Library, Grand Hall

Tickets: $20 General Admission*, $16 Members, Free for Students, Library Tagholders, Flinns

Reserve your ticket at lfla.org/aloud

More information at lfla.org/aloud

*General Admission tickets are non-refundable and non-transferable.
The Heritage: Black Athletes, a Divided America, and the Politics of Patriotism
Howard Bryant and John Carlos
In conversation with Dr. Todd Boyd, Professor of Cinema and Media Studies, USC
A sports journalist and Olympic icon team up to explore the collision of sports and politics and the fervent rise of the athlete-activist
THURSDAY, JUNE 28, 7:30 PM

What the Eyes Don’t See: A Story of Crisis, Resistance, and Hope in an American City
Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha
In conversation with journalist Gaylen Moore, LA Times
The dramatic story of how a relentless physician and whistleblower stood up to power in the Flint water crisis—one of the signature-environmental disasters of our time
WEDNESDAY, JULY 11, 7:30 PM

Bruce Lee and the Afro-Asian Culture Connection
W. Kamau Bell, Jeff Chang, and Shannon Lee
In conversation with Shannon Lee
Commemorating the 45th anniversary of Bruce Lee’s passing, authors and cultural critics explore his long-lasting legacy of fighting against oppression and racism as an inspiration to people of color
TUESDAY, JULY 17, 7:30 PM

From Prison to President: The Letters of Nelson Mandela
A reading, conversation, and celebration
With Zim Zumwalt (Mandela Mandela), Siphokazi Jackson, Colin Jubelin, and Amanda German
Music by St. Nomad/Moon
On the centenary of his birth, a intimate new portrait of one of the most inspiring historical figures of the twentieth century
Co-presented with PEN America
TUESDAY, JULY 24, 7:30 PM

Lost & Found at the Movies: Tales of Togetherness
Jay and Mark Duplass
In conversation with John Nein, Senior Programmer, Sundance Film Festival
The critically acclaimed filmmakers discuss their intimate collaboration, their myriad partnerships, and how they came up with a joint “Top 10 Films of All-Time”
TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 7:30 PM

LA Made: Calligraphy Workshop with Makers Mess
Learn all about the basic tools and proper techniques of modern pointed pen calligraphy. Participants will start with basic pen strokes, practice putting letters together, and start to develop a personal style
SATURDAY, JULY 21, 3:00 PM

Vegetable Growing with Master Gardener Emi Carvell
Whether it’s in a pot on a windowsill, a balcony, or in the garden, participants will learn how to grow seeds in Eko-Pots for many different kinds of veggies and herbs
THURSDAY, AUGUST 2, 3:00 PM

Hula O Hoaloha
Experience traditional Hawaiian dance and music while gaining an appreciation for the history, stories, and costumes associated with the two categories of Hula: Hula Kahiko, (Ancient Hula), and Hula Auana, (Modern Hula)
THURSDAY, AUGUST 2, 3:00 PM

Los Angeles Public Library Programs
LA Made is a cultural series offered by the Los Angeles Public Library featuring free music, dance, theater, and conversations with a diverse array of librettos throughout the City. Listed below are just a few events offered this season. For more information visit lapl.org/lamade.

For more information on these programs, book signings, and book purchases:
ALOUD
lfla.org/aloud or 213.385.0654
Free/Reservations recommended (unless otherwise indicated)

General Programs
lfla.org/calendar or 213.385.0654
Programs are subject to change.

Additional support provided by:

Additional Programs
In addition to the free ALOUD series, the Library Foundation is pleased to host exciting additional programs throughout the year. Library Foundation Members receive exclusive first access to these events. For more information on Membership or how to attend please visit lfla.org/calendar or call 213.385.0654.

Summer 2018 213.228.7500 lfla.org
On Saturday, April 7, the Tenth Annual Toast was held at Hudson Loft in DTLA to celebrate the literary life of our city and to support the life-changing work of the Los Angeles Public Library.

Over 300 guests enjoyed cocktails, beer from our friends at Fort Point Brewery, delicious bites, and coffee from our friends at Blue Bottle Coffee. They then were treated to readings, music, and comedy by an eclectic cast of performers: Colin Hanks (Life in Pieces), Busy Philips (Vice Principals, I Feel Pretty), Katie Aselton (Legion), Mark Duplass (Togetherness, Mindy Project, The Mindy Project), and musical duo Radnor & Lee, consisting of Josh Radnor of How I Met Your Mother on vocals and musician Ben Lee on guitar.

The Toast raised over $200,000 to support Future Ready Teens programs at the Los Angeles Public Library—an impressive 22% increase over fundraising from last year.

Highlights from the Seventh Annual Book Drop BASH

This year the party moved to the Second Floor Rotunda to celebrate the Visualizing Language Murals on display.

Highlights from The Council’s spring season

Glanton Richards and Renee Richards show off their finds from the beloved book swap.

Night of the Book Swap for Hidden Gems

Members show off their “Proud Library Supporter” tote bags.

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The Council
The Library Foundation of Los Angeles provides critical support to the Los Angeles Public Library resulting in free programs, resources and services available to thousands of adults, children and youth in Los Angeles. We accomplish this mission through fundraising, advocacy and innovative programs that strengthen the Library and promote greater awareness of its valuable resources.

Summer Sojourn

Have summer, will travel! Shop The Library Store to plan your perfect road trip and stock up on essential vacation gear. Find these items in our downtown shop located in the beautiful Central Library.

Phone: 213.228.7550 / shop.lfla.org / librarystore@lfla.org

California's Best Trips
Member Price: $19.54
Regular Price: $22.99

California Map Dish Towel
Member Price: $9.31
Regular Price: $10.95

Little Book of Mindful Travel
Member Price: $8.46
Regular Price: $9.95

California Map Puzzle
Member Price: $4.25
Regular Price: $5.00

Travel Bingo
Member Price: $9.31
Regular Price: $10.95

Support free access to information and the civic, cultural, and educational core of our community

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