



2019 -
2020
Year in
Review





President's Note

What an incredible year it has been. Through the library closing its physical doors, learning new ways to share our programming, figuring out how to engage with one another through small squares on a screen, we have successfully managed many of the obstacles in the new world we are all inhabiting.

In the late spring of 2020 we did a soft launch of virtual programming and, as we worked through the many curves and tests of ever-changing technology, we found that we could quickly adapt and bring our award-winning public programs to the forefront. Over this past year we have presented programs of which we are very proud. A few examples include The Cost of Inequality with Reverend Dr. William Barber and Robert Reich; Ongoing Challenges of Disability Discrimination with Jasmine E. Harris, Ruth Colker, and Michele Bratcher Goodwin; and Lift Every Voice (Celebrating 250 years of African American poetry) with Kevin Young, Robin Coste Lewis, and Amanda Gorman, among others.

During this transformative year, we learned that our supporters are stronger and more giving than ever. We saw it amid our Giving Tuesday campaign where, thanks to you, we exceeded our goals in record numbers. We saw it again with our Stay Home and Read a Book Ball supporters who came through with the memorable images of themselves (and their well-read pets) on social media. We also had the Young Literati Member Sean Hetherington and his partner Darius Wadia turn a canceled 2020 marathon into a one-of-a-kind fundraising moment for the Library. We are reminded in these moments that our efforts to generate support for the Los Angeles Public Library are in concert with our Members, library patrons, and people across all communities in Los Angeles who understand the importance of public libraries.

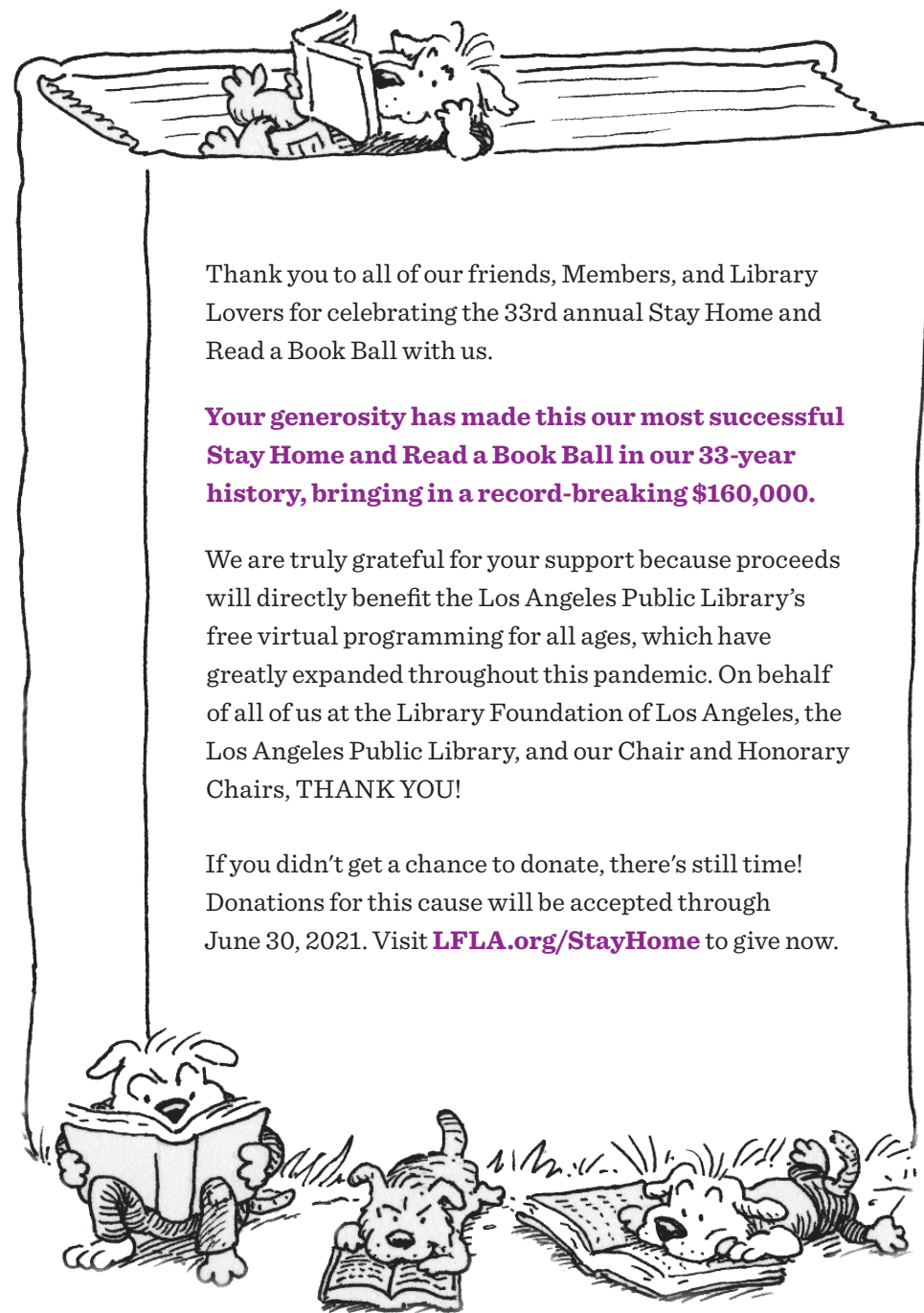
The most inspiring parts of this year was seeing how library patrons have exceedingly used the e-media offered by the Library including checking out e-books on social justice in record numbers last summer. Others have chosen to continue their educational progress through programs like Career Online High School, where we recently saw our 500th graduate get their High School diploma. Many branches are also participating in the LAPL's Library To Go initiative allowing library lovers to check out books, giving them somewhat of a semblance of the library experience we had pre-COVID.

We here at the Library Foundation have learned much about who we are in this last year and the communities we are honored to serve. We are proud that you have chosen to be part of the work that we are doing. As the world begins to open back up, we will continue to persevere and, with your help, create even more opportunities and accessible resources at the Los Angeles Public Library.

Ken Brecher, President

LFLA News

Our Best Stay Home and Read a Book Ball Yet!



Thank you to all of our friends, Members, and Library Lovers for celebrating the 33rd annual Stay Home and Read a Book Ball with us.

Your generosity has made this our most successful Stay Home and Read a Book Ball in our 33-year history, bringing in a record-breaking \$160,000.

We are truly grateful for your support because proceeds will directly benefit the Los Angeles Public Library's free virtual programming for all ages, which have greatly expanded throughout this pandemic. On behalf of all of us at the Library Foundation of Los Angeles, the Los Angeles Public Library, and our Chair and Honorary Chairs, THANK YOU!

If you didn't get a chance to donate, there's still time! Donations for this cause will be accepted through June 30, 2021. Visit [LFLA.org/StayHome](https://lfla.org/StayHome) to give now.

Public Programs: Spring 2021 Calendar

Library
Foundation
of Los Angeles

ALoud

Getting Louder.

ALoud is the Library Foundation of Los Angeles' series of bold, powerful programs that are evolving as we experiment, take risks, and try new ideas that are informed by the changing world and the audiences we serve. New programs are frequently added, and all programs are subject to change.

Library
Foundation
of Los Angeles

This spring season, the Library Foundation of Los Angeles offers a series of programs co-presented by The Council and ALoud.

Visit lfla.org/calendar for a full list of digital programs.

ON WORDS



THURSDAY, APRIL 22 @ 5:00 PM PST
Erosion: Essays Of Undoing
Terry Tempest Williams
In Conversation with Jessica Strand
One of today's most important writers and conservationists explores the erosion of our public lands and how our earth is being torn apart.



WEDNESDAY, MAY 26 @ 5:00 PM PST
We Run the Tides: A Novel
Vendela Vida
In Conversation
Set against the changing landscape of a pre-tech boom San Francisco, Vida shares an enigmatic coming-of-age story in all its beauty and confusion.

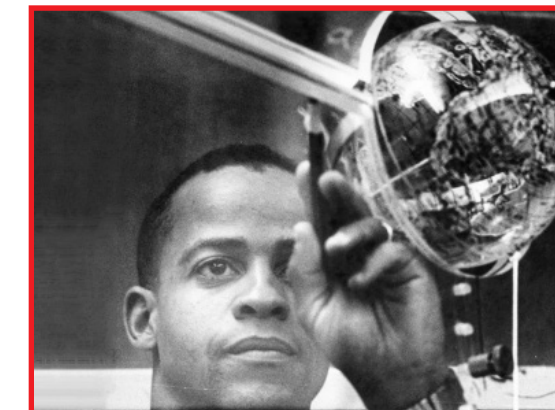


MONDAY, APRIL 12 @ 6:30 PM PST
The Committed
Viet Thanh Nguyen
In conversation with Laila Lalami
Award-winning writer Nguyen returns with an exhilarating sequel to his Pulitzer Prize-winning spy thriller, *The Sympathizer*.

ON FILM



FRIDAY, MAY 7 @ 5:00 PM PST
My Time Will Come:
A Memoir of Crime, Punishment,
Hope, and Redemption
Ian Manuel
In Conversation
Through a transcendent story of redemption, a look at how we can address our judicial system and bring about "just mercy."



FRIDAY, APRIL 16 @ 6:00 PM PST
Lost & Found at the Movies:
New Suns
Ashley Clark, Wanuri Kihiu, and Vi Ha
In conversation with John Nein
A look at how the resurgence of Octavia E. Butler's pioneering work in Black speculative fiction is shaping new ways that storytellers are reimagining the past, present, and future through film.



THURSDAY, MAY 20 @ 6:00 PM PST
Facing the Mountain: A True Story of
Japanese American Heroes in WWII
Daniel James Brown
In conversation with Tom Ikeda
The #1 New York Times bestselling author of *The Boys in the Boat* illuminates an inspiring story of patriotism and courage from an overlooked moment of history.

A Story of Resilience: Building the LA COVID-19 Community Archive



“History is more than government documents, statistical reports, and newspaper headlines. History isn’t just the chyrons running across the bottom of your television screen. It is the stories of everyday people,” wrote LAPL’s California History Librarian Kelly Wallace last May. “As librarians, we realize the power of first-hand accounts to bring history to life and fill in the gaps in history textbooks.” Now a year into the pandemic, the days have started to blur. And decades from now, although we’d probably like this year of hardship and isolation to feel like a faint memory, we are currently living through an historic moment.

In a collective effort to document these extraordinary times, the Los Angeles Public Library has invited Angelenos to contribute to the LA COVID-19 Community Archive. By building a digital collection of photos, diaries, drawings, poetry, letters, signs, and more, the Library hopes to help future generations understand what it was like living in Los Angeles during the pandemic. Since first launching the LA COVID-19 Community Archive, the Library has already received over 2,000 submissions that portray everything from hunting for toilet paper to being an essential worker on the frontline. We checked in with Acting Senior Librarian Suzanne Im, who is overseeing the archive, about this vital work to preserve the story of our community’s resilience.

What have you learned about the people of L.A. through this archive?

Im: Despite our differences, Angelenos have so much in common—and resilience in good measure. Early on, people found creative ways to cope and make connections despite the restrictions of the stay-at-home orders. There are photographs taken at

a distance, including portraits of families on their front porches, or behind windows. We’ve seen submissions that show changes in daily routines and interactions, such as photos of adults telecommuting and children tele-schooling. Children and grandchildren are engaging with elderly family members from balconies or through videoconferencing. We’ve also surprisingly received quite a few submissions related to weddings moving forward in, or thwarted by, quarantine.

This is a time where wearing masks became socially acceptable in L.A. and across the country, though not without resistance. We see a lot of photographs of people wearing N95 or homemade masks, or people making masks for distribution. As soon as restrictions started to loosen, we started to see photos of people visiting beaches and state and local parks while wearing masks and maintaining social distancing (most of the time).

Photos of changes in the public landscape prevail as well, such as signage indicating business closures or social distancing guidelines. Many submissions show empty streets, freeways, and once bustling areas gone quiet. Also notable are photographs of the clear skies that have emerged due to widespread telecommuting, a testament to what telecommuting can do for the environment.

These submissions have been punctuated by more sobering moments as well. Through their submissions, people have expressed sorrow over jobs lost, graduation ceremonies gone virtual, and experiences of grief made all the more painful because of distancing during the pandemic.

How has building this Archive changed your practices in preservation?



Boy in a window cheers for health care workers, and Arroyo Seco Parkway empty of cars during the COVID-19 pandemic

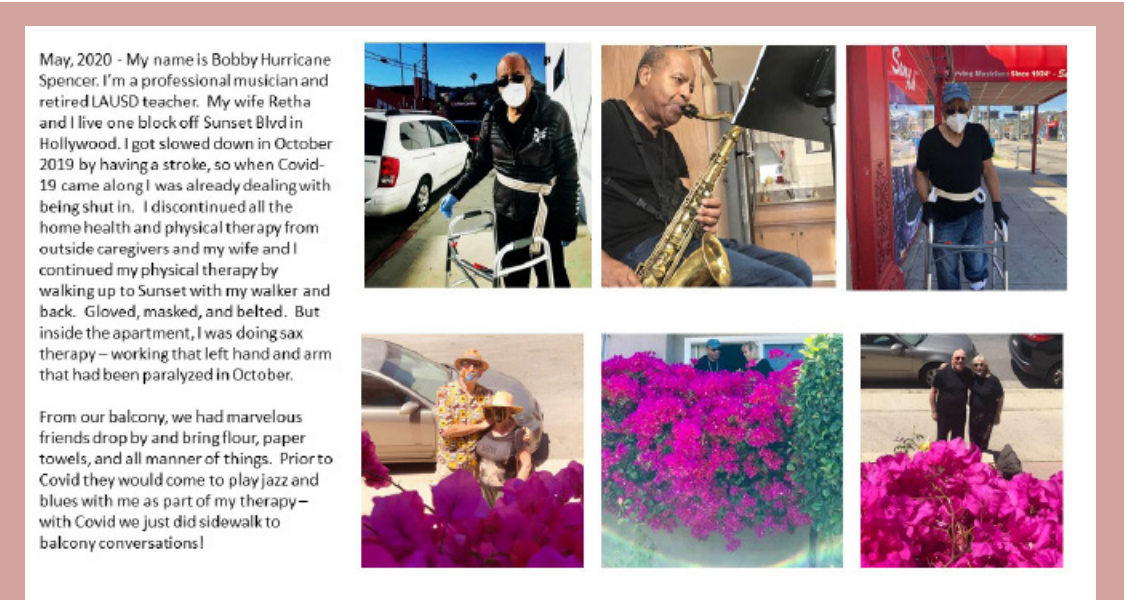
Im: One of LAPL’s earliest forays into community archiving was through the Shades of LA project in the 1980s and 1990s. This project inspired staff in the Digitization & Special Collections department to apply for an IDEAS grant from the Library Foundation to create the Mobile Memory Lab in 2018-2019. I saw [the LA COVID-19 Community Archive] as a natural evolution of this [past work]. Building this collection has catapulted our department’s work into the 21st century as far as handling and preserving born-digital materials, which we previously had little of in our collections. It inspired us to delve into web archiving as well—Sung Kim, our Digital Collections Librarian, recently obtained a grant from the Internet Archive that will enable us to archive local websites of historical importance before they are lost, using Archive-It.

What are your long term hopes for this archive?

Im: I hope that this archive will be of use to future students, teachers, historians, and other researchers seeking out primary sources to understand what life was like during the COVID-19 pandemic in L.A. county. What thoughts and concerns did people have during this time? What items were most in demand at the store? What kinds of activities did people participate in to keep socially active while maintaining physical distance? How did people or organizations rise to the occasion and support community members? Answers to these questions are exemplified in the submissions to the archive.

The Library welcomes any Angeleno to contribute their experiences to the collection through May 1. Learn more at lapl.org/covid-archive. The initial submissions have been cataloged and are available for viewing at tessa.lapl.org.

Memorable Moments from the Archive



“One of our early submissions came from Bobby Hurricane Spencer, a professional musician and retired LAUSD teacher. What struck me about his moving photo collage was that it illustrates many aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic: health concerns, challenges of adapting to new routines, and the kindness of friends and neighbors.” Kelly Wallace, California History Librarian



“I feel affirmed by the universality of the [pandemic] experience. [The submissions] have helped me become more positive personally. [Notably] Jenny Januszewski’s photo of her son riding [a] bike in a parking lot. I empathize with her experience - having difficulty finding open space for kids to play as a condo/apartment dweller [myself].” Sung Kim, Digital Collections Librarian

“A submission that stuck with me was a photo of an expectant mother, seven months pregnant, going in for an examination at Kaiser Los Angeles Medical Center. Because of COVID-19 risks she had to take a temperature check before entering the building, and wore a mask during the entire appointment. Her husband was not allowed to go in with her. At the time, much less was known about the virus and its potential risks. Her stress and fear are palpable in her statement: No one tells you what to expect when you’re expecting during a pandemic.” Suzanne Im, Acting Senior Librarian



“The [submissions] I saw helped me feel more connected to the life of the city as [it] moved indoors. When I saw the submissions I felt like it was a way of being with our patrons again. It was also interesting to see the ways the city has changed, like in the photo of the cafe in Pasadena that lists almond milk and rubber gloves on the menu board.” Rose Knopka, Librarian Archivist



2019-2020 Year in Review

The Library Foundation Annual Report

Every spring, we take this moment to reflect on the impact of our work from the past fiscal year and the dedication, creativity, and innovation that makes this work possible. This year’s story is dramatically different, yet it continues to illuminate our longstanding belief that the public library has the power to transform lives. As we faced a global pandemic, our community once again turned to the Los Angeles Public Library during their time of need. Although the Library had to close its doors last March because of the safer-at-home orders, it quickly evolved to provide patrons across the city with vital services and free resources to help Angelenos stay connected, informed, and inspired.



Thank you to the individuals, foundations, organizations, and businesses that generously supported the Library Foundation during this challenging year. Together we have empowered the Library to expand its offerings to meet record demands during the pandemic. As we look back on our work from the fiscal year of July 2019-June 2020, we are excited to showcase the resilience of the Los Angeles Public Library to restore hope and to help our community rebuild.



In just the first three months of the pandemic, **64,000** people signed up for an e-card to access e-books, audiobooks, streaming media, and more. Over **1,014,400** items were digitally borrowed in April 2020—a one-month record for the Library.



2019-2020 Year in Review

Investing in Lifelong Learning

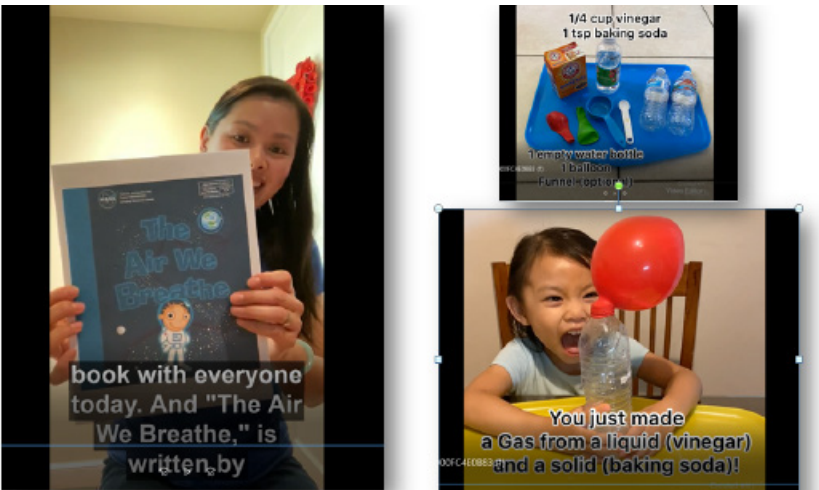
Encompasses programs and services that address key literacies, including English-language literacy for adults and digital literacy, across libraries citywide.

During the pandemic, the Library provided Adult Literacy learners free WiFi hotspots and laptops to continue meeting with tutors. The Library also began hosting around 20 virtual classes per week on Zoom, which increased access to new adult learners who may have not been able to attend in-person.

Programs include:

- Adult Literacy
- Career Online High School
- Cybernauts
- Full STEAM Ahead
- Health Matters

Program Spotlight: Full STEAM Ahead



After the stay-at-home orders went into effect, the Library moved a wide array of its **Full STEAM Ahead** activities online. The Library’s integrated science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM) initiative encourages people of all ages to develop curiosity and creativity in science and related fields.

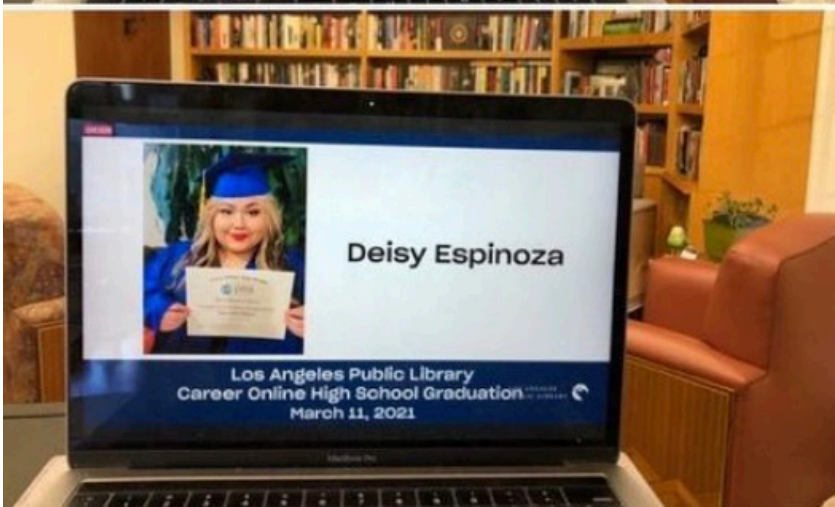
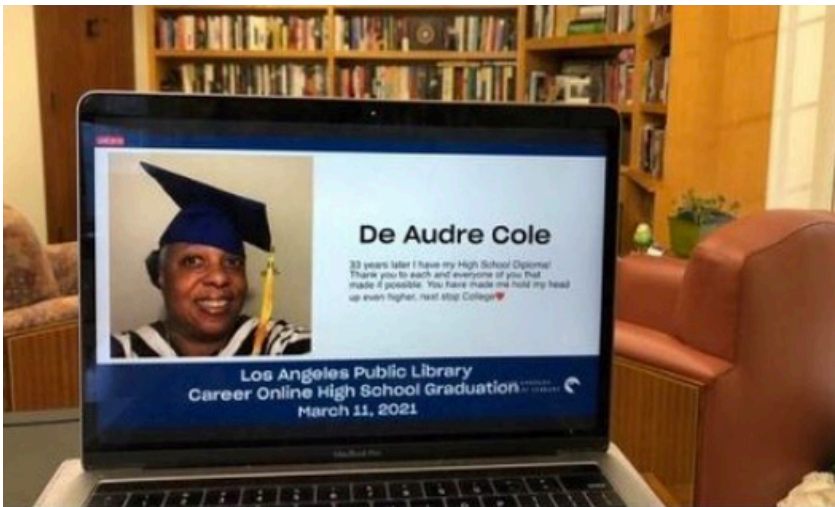
Between late March and the end of June, librarians hosted a total of 126 Full STEAM virtual programs like coding challenges and maker workshops via the Library’s YouTube, Zoom, Facebook Live, Instagram, and other channels. The Wilmington Branch Library launched a SCIENCE@HOME! series on Facebook reaching audiences well beyond their neighborhood. The Library also kicked off a popular Electronics 101 For Kids series. With overwhelming positive feedback and a 96% retention rate throughout this 4-week session, kids learned about voltage, current, and simulated build activities using TinkerCAD. Through June 30, 2020, online STEAM programs had reached 44,998 unique individuals and been viewed a total of 13,143 times.

Program Spotlight: Career Online High School

A leader among its peers, the Los Angeles Public Library was the first library system in the nation to launch **Career Online High School (COHS)**, a program that offers adults another chance at earning a fully-accredited high school diploma and career certificate. The program first began in 2013 to help close the gap of the number of adults in Los Angeles that do not have a high school diploma—a rate of approximately 22% of adults over the age of 25, which is more than double the national average.

The online program has seen a long history of success and during the pandemic it continued to thrive. The Library enrolled nearly 200 new learners between March and June 2020. In order to meet the needs of adults who found themselves looking to continue their education and improve their lives during this challenging time, Library Foundation-supported scholarships were awarded to nearly double the new students.

Last year, 60% of graduates reported going on to enroll in a vocational or post-secondary school, and 23% of learners who were employed while enrolled in COHS received a pay raise since graduating. “It was an amazing opportunity that COHS offered to me,” wrote a recent participant. “Now I can give encouragement to my two girls to keep going and do their best at school, despite all the adjustments of doing virtual school.” In the summer of 2020, the program celebrated its 400th graduate.



2019-2020 Year in Review

Helping Students Succeed

Ensuring children and teens have the resources they need to thrive as students, these programs inspire learning and discovery starting at birth all the way up to teens preparing for college and beyond. When in-person schools closed in March, students across the city flocked to the Library’s online programs. Online Tutoring delivered 48,492 private online tutoring sessions throughout the fiscal year—an increase of 7,070 from the previous year.

Programs include:

We Read Together
Summer at the Library
Future Ready Teens:
Online Tutoring
Get Ready for College
Student Zones
Democracy Project: Teens Leading Change

Program Spotlight: Teens Leading Change

Advocating for solutions to issues like teen mental health, cross-cultural communication, voter suppression, recycling and waste reduction, and media literacy were some of the civic-minded projects that teens designed and implemented last fiscal year. Many of the projects were in progress when COVID hit, and the teens learned how to adapt their plans to address the changing needs of their neighborhoods. As one teen participant wrote, “I’ve learned more about collaborating with others and even more so online during the pandemic. I think it’s extremely important to build these skills, and [Teens Leading Change] has let me work with a diverse group of people from different backgrounds.” The projects that the 95 teens led resulted in 124 meetings, events, and activities with 2,107 encounters and culminated with a virtual showcase with Former Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of California Carlos Moreno that drew over 1,200 views.



Program Spotlight: Reading Challenges

Many of the Library’s activities to engage kids and adults in reading moved online this year, including Summer at the Library, one of the all-time most popular literacy programs. This summer, the Library partnered with the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) and LA Regional Food Bank to distribute summer activity packs and prizes including books, gameboards, and games. The Library distributed 4,000 activity packs and more than 7,500 free books to K-12 grade students at 8 LAUSD Grab & Go meal sites across the city.

The reading challenges also included interactive digital components to inspire reading. “Zari really enjoyed the reading program,” described one parent. “Whenever I would put the books she read onto the challenge calendar, she would squeal with delight when she heard the little chime saying she had been awarded a point or a badge...your program was very helpful to keep a sense of peace and normalcy to this abnormal summer.” The Library also bolstered its literacy programs through live events streaming on YouTube and social media channels. The Your Author series, which connects patrons with young adult authors, moved online reaching 9,934 viewers—a significant increase from the average 2,000 participants reached through past in-person events.



2019-2020 Year in Review

Engaging The Imagination

Comprises a number of initiatives that bring together hundreds of established and emerging authors, poets, journalists, academics, and artists for public conversations.

Programs include:

ALoud
Lost & Found at the Movies
Exhibitions
LA Made



Jorge Martinez
Public Programs Coordinator

“The Library Foundation is actually the first job I’ve ever had! The PST LA/LA exhibition ‘Visualizing Language: Oaxaca in L.A.’ drew me here and I started off as the first Getty Multicultural Undergraduate intern. For my role now, I miss seeing and greeting all the attendees at the check-in table, especially our Member regulars! But with the new online programming, we’ve gained accessibility and reach...I am always amazed how far people tune in to watch our programs. It has really changed what it means to be a part of the ALOUD community. Our most recent program ‘Ongoing Challenges of Disability Discrimination’ was pretty special and resonated with a lot of our viewers. But, overall my favorite part is reading through the feedback from attendees. A recent response said: ‘It was one of the most comfortable, compelling virtual author talks I’ve experienced since quarantine began.’ It shows even though we’ve moved online that the ALOUD community is still here.”



Miranda King
Program Producer

“Before coming to the Library Foundation, I worked in everything from restaurants to reality TV, but my passion has always been in directing, producing, and writing. My background is in directing for the theater and producing live events. I love the library and the work we do is really important. Everyone should have access to conversations and ideas and high-quality free programming. I miss the palpable excitement before an [in-person] program begins: an empty space before the audience arrives; a full house listening to someone talk about their art onstage. [I also miss] greeting a visiting author as they arrive at the Central Library, often for the first time, and seeing them experience the same wonder that I feel every time I walk into the building. But so many more people I know personally are attending ALOUD programs now that they are online. We hear stories of whole families getting together to watch the programs, which didn’t happen as often in person. It’s made me realize that the community is bigger than we think, and that it can really include anyone who wants to be a part of it. I’m excited to continue to use technology to innovate and create new experiences for our audiences. We will be even stronger after a year of pivoting and learning new ways of communicating.”

Program Spotlight: ALOUD Staff

Last fiscal year, the ALOUD season began with in-person events in a familiar format that audiences know and love, on topics spanning cutting-edge physics, to understanding our rights as citizens, to the best new fiction. Then after stay-at-home orders went into effect, ALOUD reimagined its role through a virtual lens. The bright light of pandemic programming has been the opening of greater access—ALoud saw 7,251 total live views on Facebook and Zoom Webinars vs. 5,943 total physical attendance in the year before. As the ALOUD team all greatly miss gathering with guests in the lobby of the Mark Taper Auditorium, we checked in about what personally inspires them as they reflect on the challenges and triumphs from a year like no other.



Jessica Strand
Director of Public Programs

“The first protest I ever attended was when I was seven years old. It was a demonstration to save the Jefferson Market Library branch in NYC’s West Village. Because of this event, libraries and our freedoms have always been linked for me. Access to knowledge and information empowers us, and everyone deserves to have that. I was so inspired watching our ‘Lift Every Voice’ program earlier this year. Watching Kris Bowers play his original piece for piano was like seeing a light at the end of a long, dark tunnel. If we can feel that connected to art, ideas, and each other – even through a screen – we can get through this. The best part of programming for me is when the subject matter, the author, and audience all connect and synthesize a new understanding together. When cultural programming reveals truth, it’s like a neurotransmitter lighting up. Moving programming to a fully digital platform has brought us a much larger audience, both of Angelenos and of attendees from all over the world. Through virtual aspects, we will be able to bring together more diverse voices, performances, conversations and audiences.”

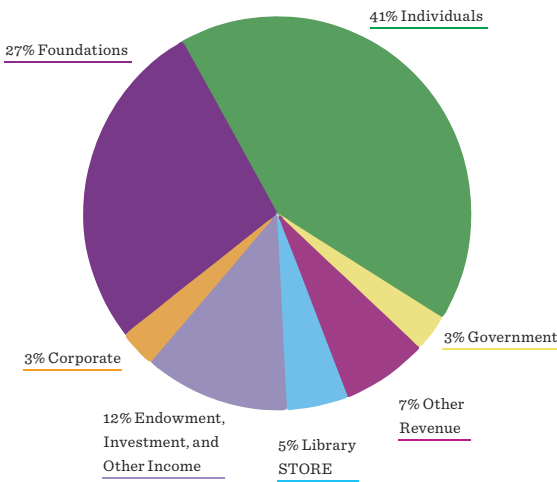


Kelsey McRae
Public Programs Coordinator

“I practically lived at my local library in my hometown of Montrose, Colorado. When the library expanded with a new building, the librarians did an activity where local kids could paint tiles to be placed inside. I loved penguins at the time (thanks library books!) so I painted a penguin family on my tile. Whenever friends visit Montrose, I always take them to the library to see my tile. The library and the librarians there are incredible and I was the luckiest to be a part of their community. Now my library community includes ALOUD’s fantastic group of program regulars. I miss that community a lot. But online ALOUD programs are more accessible than in-person programs. We have also had some pretty spectacular guests for the same reason—being digital allows us to be more flexible. My favorite moment was during the Andre Gregory and Wallace Shawn program when Andre left mid-program without saying anything to use the restroom. Then he came back and told us all about it. Only during a digital program!”

2019-2020 Financials

LFLA 2019-2020 REVENUES

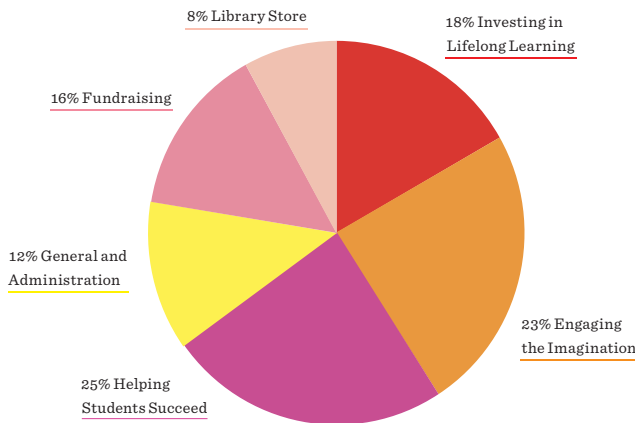


REVENUE	Amount	%
Corporate	\$266,076	3%
Foundations	\$2,270,490	27%
Individuals	\$3,490,000	41%
Government	\$202,493	2%
Other Revenue*	\$708,074	8%
Library STORE	\$458,765	5%
Revenue Subtotal	\$7,395,898	88%
Endowment, Investment, Other Income (Note A)	\$1,054,998	12%
Grand Total Revenue	\$8,450,896	100%

EXPENSES	Amount	%
Investing in Lifelong Learning	\$1,241,678	18%
Engaging the Imagination	\$1,591,199	23%
Helping Students Succeed	\$1,721,601	25%
General and Administration	\$794,945	12%
Fundraising	\$1,085,249	16%
Library STORE	\$523,529	8%
Total Expenses	\$6,958,201	100%

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	
Increase in Net Assets (Note A)	\$1,492,695
% of LFLA's Grand Total Revenue (Note A)	12.48%
Percent of Library Foundation's Net Assets (Note A)	3.15%

LFLA 2019-2020 EXPENSES



Note A: The increase (change) in net assets is in part due to the nonoperating accivities such as interest, dividends, and net unrealized and realized gain on endowed fund investments at fiscal year end. In the legend of the pie charts, this figure is reflected in the Endowment, Investment, Other Income line and represents approximately 2.14% of net assets and a little less than 12% of total revenue reported. Of this revenue, \$208,244 and \$793,876 is not available for general operations. The balance of \$490,575 is available for general operations.

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS	June 30, 2020	June 30, 2019
Cash and cash equivalents	\$3,228,129	\$845,486
Investments	44,699,404	45,443,409
Pledges receivable	1,577,150	2,727,098
Library Store inventory	175,226	143,269
Property and equipment, net	396,593	451,986
Interests in charitable remainder trusts	514,037	510,510
Prepays	274,262	78,918
TOTAL ASSETS	\$50,864,801	\$50,200,676

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$149,754	\$126,220
Deferred revenue	164,500	661,793
Payroll Protection Program loan	491,943	-
Total Liabilities	806,197	788,013

COMMITMENTS (NOTES 8 AND 11)

NET ASSETS

Without donor restrictions		
Available for general operations	976,147	822,453
Board-directed endowment	18,462,316	18,508,725
	19,438,463	19,331,178

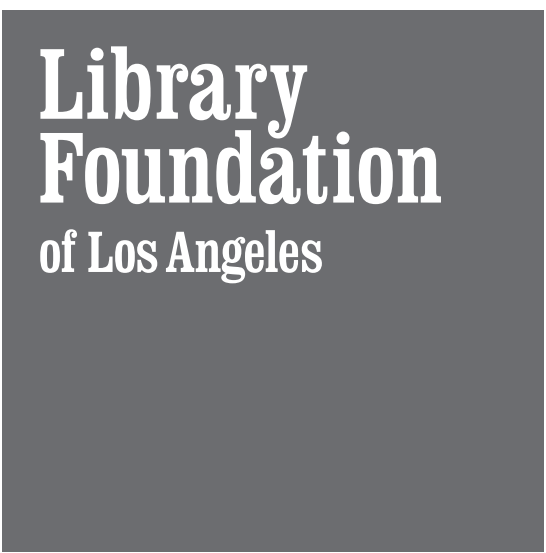
With donor restrictions

Restricted for specific purpose	7,669,786	6,128,032
Endowment earnings for specific purposes	7,849,642	8,874,740
Endowment- perpetual restricted	15,100,713	15,078,713
	30,620,141	30,081,485

Total Net Assets	50,058,604	49,412,663
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TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$50,864,801	\$50,200,676
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The Library Foundation of Los Angeles has been a four-star Charity Navigator-rated organization for eight consecutive years. Donor support to Library programs is always essential, but never more so than during a year of historic and unprecedented change due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The audited financials, complete with disclosure notes, are available for view and download on the Library Foundation's website at lfla.org/about/financials.



Spring in Your Step

Celebrate all things pristine and green with these fresh finds. The digital shop is always open, with a \$5 flate rate for shipping in the continental U.S. Proceeds from all sales support the Los Angeles Public Library, and Library Foundation Members receive discounts on all purchases.

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librarystore@lfla.org
[@TheLibraryStore](https://www.instagram.com/TheLibraryStore)



Blooming Books 750 Piece Puzzle
\$19.99



Mountain Salt Soak
\$8.95



Los Angeles Baby Swaddle Blanket
\$19.99



Green Mosaic Candle Holder
Lg \$25.00 / Sm \$16.00



La Vida Verde Cookbook
\$21.99



Dad Joke Men's Socks
\$12.95

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