Welcome New Board Chair Debra-Albin Riley

Debra-Albin Riley is an acclaimed legal partner at the based firm, decided to open an office in Los Angeles. During this time of transition, Board leadership has appointed Interim President Julie Tugend to serve as board liaison and head of the organization. Albin-Riley notes, “Julie comes to the Foundation with a wealth of experience in nonprofit executive management, and we firmly believe she will be a valuable addition to LFLA’s already stellar team.”

For the past 13 years, Albin-Riley has participated on the Board’s Governance and Executive Committees. While she is coming into the role at a time of transition, she sees her new post evolving as the Foundation finds its footing in our new normal. “There are many areas of opportunity for the Library Foundation of Los Angeles. In this era of new leadership, I want to help the Foundation maintain its spirit of collaboration, communication, and exploring new ideas.” Ultimately, her vision is that the Foundation’s Board will continue to aid the Library in meeting the ever-changing needs of its patrons. As she looks to the future, she’s optimistic that the LFLA will continue to fulfill its mission of transforming Los Angeles and the world through the power of libraries.

The Library Foundation Board of Directors at-a-Glance

- The Library Foundation Board is currently made up of 45 Directors.
- The Board has nearly doubled in size since 2010.
- Directors represent a wide array of backgrounds and expertise, including banking, law, marketing, education, artists, Information Technology, and more.
- While most Directors reside in the greater LA area, several Directors are located out of state, including Colorado and New York.
- The last three Board Chairs have been women serving in Executive roles at their respective corporations.
- The Board meets quarterly. While the primary focus of Board meetings is typical Board business and governance, the Library Foundation directors have also been serenaded by an opera singer, visited by a pug–michie Cycles, and sipped small-batch mezcal at Board meetings.
- The Library Foundation is actively looking to grow the Board, particularly in areas that currently lack representation. Inquiries can be sent to info@lfla.org.

Although it’s not officially a prerequisite, every staffer of the Library Foundation of Los Angeles has a special connection to libraries. Even the newest member to the team, Shawn Rubin, who came on board as Chief Financial Officer (CFO) this September recalls her early days at the Woodland Hills Branch. “I remember going there for hours. You could get anything you wanted at the Library. It was a huge respite as a child. I was that kid that would sleep at somebody’s house and wait till the kid went to bed so I could read all their books. Now my daughter is that kid,” she laughs. In her new role as CFO, Shawn will help to reshape and advance fundraising efforts as well as reserve accounting and budgeting. Shawn has extensive experience in finance through her past work at top tier companies like American Express, Citi, and Nortel Networks and she has an MBA in Finance from Indiana University’s Kelley School of Business. Most recently, she worked as VP of Finance for ExED, a non-profit that provides financial services to charter schools.

Shawn is excited to continue her trajectory of education puts them at a disadvantage that is massive. I worked with a tiny little high school and every year it was like they were going to give up, but we kept them going. Their first graduating class had 100% of their students accepted to four-year colleges and 100% of their students were first in their families to go to college. It was amazing. Our financial work enabled the school to get those kids to college.” Shawn is excited to continue her trajectory of support the students and communities of Los Angeles. There’s a true belief that education is the thing that can lift up all communities,” Shawn says. In her work, she has seen how crucial financial support can be to the impact of educational organizations.

Julie Tugend Joins Library Foundation of Los Angeles as Interim President

This fall, nonprofit management executive Julie Tugend was appointed Interim President for the Library Foundation of Los Angeles. Tugend replaces retiring Library Foundation of Los Angeles President Ken Broche, who served since 2010. In this role, Tugend will guide the operational functions of the Foundation and act as the liaison to the LFLA Board.

“I am deeply honored to have the opportunity to help the Library Foundation of Los Angeles navigate its change in leadership and will do my best to ensure the LFLA is well positioned to continue to marshal community resources to support the Library and its invaluable programs,” says Tugend.

Julie Tugend is a management consultant and executive coach with over 30 years of executive level experience in philanthropy, government, and the nonprofit sector. Her civic involvement dates back to the beginning of her career when she served as an aide in Mayor Tom Bradley’s administration. Julie served as Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for The California Endowment, the largest health foundation in the state. Her consulting clients have included Community Partners, the California Mental Health Services Authority, Viata del Mar Child and Family Services, Young Storytellers and First 5 LA. Julie is a graduate of Reed College and The Second City Conservatory.

An announcing Shawn Rubin, Chief Financial Officer

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Shawn Rubin, Chief Financial Officer

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A New Exhibit Goes Backstage at a Historic Puppet Show

“It’s puppets, it’s movie stars, it’s quirky Los Angeles,” says Curator and Senior Librarian Christina Rice about a new exhibit at Central Library’s Getty Gallery. “Life on a String: The Yale Puppeteers and the Turnabout Theatre” presents the life’s work of three men who forged a professional and deeply personal bond that lasted a lifetime and who invited the city of Los Angeles to turnabout.

In 1958, the Los Angeles Public Library became custodian of a vast collection of ephemera chronicling the careers of the Yale Puppeteers. The trio of Harry Burnett (1901-1993), Forman Brown (1901-1996), and Richard “Roddy” Brandon (1904-1985) first came together in the 1930s and developed a shared vision of sophisticated adult entertainment in the form of marionettes.

In the early 1930s, they ran the Teatro Torito theatre on Olive Street and from 1941-1956, operated the Turnabout Theatre on La Cienega Boulevard in Los Angeles, endeavors which brought them international fame while bringing them international fame while they forged a professional and deeply personal partnership with Roddy Brandon.

The book, along with Yale Puppeteer collections like scarf, pins, and postcards can be purchased at the Library Store. shop.lfla.org

PLANNED GIFTS
Plan ahead by including the Library Foundation of Los Angeles in your estate plan through one of these flexible options:

Bequest
The simplest way to make a planned gift is to create a bequest in your will or trust. Usually this is a brief clause that includes a specific gift amount or percentage of your estate.

Retirement Plans and Life Insurance
Designate the Library Foundation of Los Angeles as a beneficiary of your retirement plan or insurance policy.

Charitable Remainder Trust
Contribute appreciated assets (such as cash, securities, or real property) into a Trust and generate a fixed income stream. The Library Foundation of Los Angeles will receive the remainder of the principal after a specified time period.

Sample language

Sample language

ENDOWED FUND
Create your Library legacy through an endowed fund. Each fund has an invested principal that is never spent but earns income. The fund can be named after you or in honor or memory of a loved one, and can be created in installments over a number of years or as part of your estate plan.

Sample language

JOIN THE BIBLIOPHILES
By making a contribution through a planned gift or endowed fund, you join a dedicated, forward-thinking supporter of the Library. By making a contribution through a planned gift or endowed fund, you join a dedicated, forward-thinking supporter of the Library. Bibliophiles receive invitations to special events throughout the year on a wide range of topics and acknowledgment in the Library Foundation’s Annual Honor Roll of Donors.

Creating a planned gift is an incredibly personal commitment and we respect your wishes should you choose to remain anonymous. Above all, your generosity will have a lasting impact for our community.

Please contact Sharon Padua for more information.
(213) 292-6268
Sharonpadua@lfla.org

“Life on a String: The Yale Puppeteers and the Turnabout Theatre” presents the life’s work of three men who forged a professional and deeply personal bond that lasted a lifetime and who invited the city of Los Angeles to turnabout.
Behind-the-Scenes: Special Projects

From unearthing the Library’s historic collections of menus, autographs, and sheet music to a celebration of Shakespeare, the Library Foundation of Los Angeles has researched, designed, and produced a range of multidimensional exhibition projects in partnership with the Los Angeles Public Library. In 2017, the Library Foundation took part in the Getty Foundation’s Pacific Standard Time initiative (Los Angeles/Latin America) by re-contextualizing the historic murals in Central Library’s Rotunda through a camera lens. Each of these projects is years in the making and we’re excited to be underway on No Prior Art, part of the Getty’s next iteration of Pacific Standard Time focused on art and science.

Set to launch in 2024, our special projects team is currently combing through the Library’s patent collection—Central Library is home to the most extensive intellectual property (IP) resources on the West Coast. By highlighting some of the most fascinating inventions as well as unheralded innovators in Los Angeles’s communities, the project aims to shine a fresh light on the very nature of creativity and invention.

We’re checking in on what inspires the LFLA’s special projects team as they bring this new project to life.

Todd Lerew
Director of Special Projects

“If you look up the Google Street View for the small library I frequented as a child in Crooks, South Dakota, you will find that branch still survived by perfectly flat cornfields on three sides; this may be in part why I went through a serious choose-your-own-adventure phase at that time... Now, when I’m doing research for a project or exhibition, I live off all the unexpected connections that can be made just by moving through the city with an open mind and visiing with people across all of our diverse and expanding communities. I am inspired by those who make the effort to showcase their collections or creations and am drawn to stories that are unexpected and underrepresented. Much of my professional experience has been in non-profit education—from tutoring first generation immigrant students at my high school in South Dakota, to working as a college advisor and after-school program coordinator at public high schools in San Francisco. I have also long been involved in music and the arts, playing in bands as well as inventing musical instruments, and producing and performing concerts. I came to Los Angeles in 2012 to attend CalArts, where I got an MFA in Experimental Music Composition. I feel extremely fortunate to be in a position with the Library Foundation that allows me to continue working in the cultural and creative sphere, while supporting an institution of higher learning and discovery whose mission I believe in deeply. I have a quote on my desk taken from a short story by Jorge Luis Borges: ‘I declare that the Library is an endless.’ I love that. You might come to a library for the things that you’re looking for, but you might also find something you didn’t even know you wanted.”

Julia Tcharfas
Research Assistant for No Prior Art

“I studied Fine Art at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and like many others would use the Museum as a shortcut to class. I would stroll down the long corridor towards Warhol’s Chairman Mao, grab a chocolate from Felix Gonzalez Torres’ candy pile, and exit towards the classroom through the American furniture gallery. Later, I did my MFA in London at UCL and was surrounded by spectacular museums that transport you to another world like the Sir John Soane and the Hunterian. Exhibitions at the VA and the Cold War Modern and Dumbledore Objects changed the way I look at objects of design. From then on, I always wanted museums to be a part of my lived environment. At home, I started collecting Year 2000 memorabilia, an Earth picture library, and texts on ticks. Most recently, I became interested in archiving materials from the nearly 60-year long struggle against the completion of the 710 freeway in east Los Angeles neighborhoods. These personal collections usually end up in exhibitions that I display in the living room of my house in Pasadena, as a kind of project space that I call ‘Before Present’. All this to say, I am deeply invested in telling stories through objects and documents and I find searching for these materials to be a mystical and rewarding practice. The Los Angeles Public Library’s historical collections and the Library Foundation’s contemporary interpretations of these collections in exhibitions have been an important source of inspiration and a fantastic place to direct my own interests. I love the idea of an exhibition as an essay, or a short story told spatially. Inevitably, the stories the Library chooses to tell have found clarity and resilience in the face of adversity.

A Note About In-Person Programming

As of June 15, 2021, the Los Angeles Public Library has reopened its physical doors and is offering in-person services at most library locations. Services may include browsing, computer access, pick up of holds, mobile printing orders, and checking out of materials inside libraries. During this phase of reopening, in-person programs and classes are not yet available. Many programs are still available virtually.

Programs produced by the Library Foundation of Los Angeles, including ALOUD, will continue to be hosted virtually, with in-person events anticipated to return in Winter 2022.

Need more ALOUD? Visit the LFLA’s Media Archive to listen to podcasts and watch recordings of hundreds of past ALOUD programs, old and new.

Fall 2021 Calendar

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.

This coming year, ALOUD will look at the theme of Resilience. How do we manage to survive and blossom in the face of tragedy, controversy, and uncertainty? Where do we find strength? Our programs will look at individuals who have turned to writing to make sense of their situation, and it is through the written word that each of them has found clarity and resilience in the face of adversity.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28 @ 5:00 PM PST

Freeman’s Biannual: Change

with John Freeman with Rick Bass, Lanu Bastanić, and Lisa Mouner

A celebration of the latest installment of John Freeman’s acclaimed literary journal, featuring some of today’s top writers on the hopes and pain of the ever-changing present.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9 @ 5:00 PM PST

Ruth Ozeki In Conversation

with John Freeman with Rick Bass, Ta-Nehisi Coates, Zadie Smith, and more.

From stories of endurance and resilience to strength and pain, historian and writer Cobb shares from a new anthology illuminating the work of James Baldwin, Toni Morrison, Ta-Nehisi Coates, Zadie Smith, and more.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16 @ 5:00 PM PST

The Matter of Black Lives: Writing From The New Yorker Jelani Cobb In Conversation

From stories of endurance and resilience to strength and pain, historian and writer Cobb shares from a new anthology illuminating the work of James Baldwin, Toni Morrison, Ta-Nehisi Coates, Zadie Smith, and more.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20 @ 8:00 PM PST

The Book of Form and Emptiness Ruth Ozeki In Conversation with Aimee Bender

Award-winning novelist, filmmaker, and Zen Buddhist priest Ozeki discusses her brilliantly inventive new novel about loss, growing up, and the resiliency of human relationships.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23 @ 5:00 PM PST

In Conversation with Sharon Olds

Sharon Olds (Poetry) and Sharon Olds (Book of Poems)

A rich conversation between two generation poets about the writing of poetry, friendship, and craft.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28 @ 5:00 PM PST

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*Check shop.lfla.org for most updated hours of operation. Masks are required per L.A. County guidelines.

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$14.95

Bavel Cookbook
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Cat Bookshop Puzzle
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Wild Mushrooms Mug
$15.00

Black Rose Candle
$50.00

Amuseable Blue Cheese
$34.50

Los Angeles Shopper Tote
$26.95

Malala Coin Purse
$12.00

Shroom & Board Knee High Socks
$12.90
On September 28, The Council of the Library Foundation hosted its first in-person Council Literary Series dinner since the pandemic halted events in February 2020. The evening featured author Michael Lewis speaking about his apropos nonfiction book, *The Premonition: A Pandemic Story*. With COVID protocols in place, the event was enthusiastically and joyously attended by some of the Library Foundation’s most dedicated supporters.