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THE LIBRARY FOUNDATION OF LOS ANGELES ANNOUNCES THE APPOINTMENT OF SEVEN NEW DIRECTORS TO THE BOARD

New Directors Include Jennifer Chu, Sandra Kulli, Courtney Lilly, Celia S. Ramos, Katherine A. Roberts, Allison Samek, and Michael Speaker

(Los Angeles, August 9, 2023) The Library Foundation of Los Angeles (LFLA) announced the appointment of seven new leaders to its Board of Directors, representing diverse industries from entertainment to corporate law. New Directors include **Jennifer Chu**, a Tax Partner for Deloitte Tax; **Sandra Kulli**, a marketing and placemaking strategist with Kulli Marketing; **Courtney Lilly**, executive producer and showrunner; **Celia S. Ramos**, a Practice Leader and Managing Director at Accenture; **Katherine A. Roberts**, a Partner at Sidley Austin LLP; **Allison Samek**, a retail management executive; and **Michael Speaker**, Executive Vice President for CNB.

"I am thrilled to welcome these dynamic new directors to the Library Foundation of Los Angeles's Board. Our new directors will bring their diverse experiences, talents, and perspectives to enhance the Foundation's mission of supporting and expanding the Los Angeles Public Library's delivery of life-changing resources and vital public programming to our city," says Board Chair Debra Albin-Riley.

For over 30 years, the Library Foundation of Los Angeles has provided fundraising support and aided the Los Angeles Public Library in being flexible and responsive to the needs of the citizens of Los Angeles. Through a nimble public-private partnership, the Foundation funds innovative programs at the Library that serve Angelenos at every age, from [Read Baby Read](#), to help build early literacy skills; to [Teens Leading Change](#), encouraging teens to invest in civic engagement; to [Adult Literacy](#) programs that assist adults in growing a range of skills from reading fluency to digital literacy. The LFLA also produces free public programs, including [ALLOUD](#), the award-winning literary series of conversations, readings, and performances, and thought-provoking exhibitions, like [21 Collections](#), to engage audiences and promote the transformative services of the LAPL.

"As I complete my first year as President and CEO of the Library Foundation of Los Angeles, I am continually amazed by the remarkable, everyday success stories that happen through the Los Angeles Public Library, from children building 3D models in the Library's maker spaces to adult patrons graduating from Career Online High School," says President and CEO Stacy Lieberman. "I look forward to

our new directors contributing their passion and expertise to help us strengthen the Library's ability to empower individuals in our city to improve their lives and fuel their dreams."

New Board Members

Jennifer Chu is a Tax Partner in Deloitte's Mergers, Acquisitions, and Restructuring services with over 22 years of experience advising clients on M&A transactions and general tax matters. Prior to joining the LFLA Board, she was a Board Member for the Los Angeles chapter of Multiplying Good. Jennifer has a Masters of Taxation from Golden Gate University and a Bachelor of Arts in History, with a minor in Business Administration from the University of California, Berkeley.

Sandra Kulli consults with residential builders, Master Planned Communities (MPCs), and mixed-use developers on marketing strategy, working with over 100 companies on 193 communities with a sales volume exceeding \$5 billion. She has served on the boards of KCRW, The Vine, ULI-Los Angeles, Abode Communities, and CicLAvia. She's an ardent city bike rider, traveler, and remains endlessly curious about how we can create ever-better communities. Sandra holds a Bachelor of Arts from Wellesley College and a Master of Education from Boston University.

Courtney Lilly started his career as a reporter for the *Providence Journal-Bulletin* prior to writing for shows like *Arrested Development* and *The Cleveland Show*, and then becoming an award-winning executive producer of the hit show *Black-ish*. He has been nominated for four Emmy Awards for Outstanding Comedy, has won four NAACP Image Awards for Best Comedy Series, and has won a Peabody Award. Mr. Lilly received his Bachelor of Arts from Columbia University.

Celia S. Ramos is a Practice Leader and Managing Director at advisory and information technology firm Accenture. She partners with executives in designing and implementing enterprise-wide transformation programs for growth, efficiency and profitability. Ms. Ramos holds a Master of Business Administration in Finance from New York University Stern School of Business and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Katherine A. Roberts is the co-chair of Sidley Austin LLP's Labor, Employment, and Immigration group and a Partner in Sidley's Los Angeles office. Kate represents employers in all aspects of labor and employment including litigation, advice, transactions and traditional labor. Prior to law school, Kate was a reporter and editor for *The Associated Press*. She earned her Juris Doctor from the University of Wisconsin Law School and both a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Journalism from Northwestern University.

Allison Samek has more than two decades of retail, e-commerce, and marketing and operations management, strategy, and consulting experience, with firms and companies including Deloitte, eBay, and Ron Herman. Most recently, she led the iconic LA fashion brand/retailer Fred Segal as CEO from 2016 to 2022. Allison is immediate past president of the board of Temple Isaiah Los Angeles and has a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Washington University in St Louis and a Master of Business Administration from the Stanford Graduate School of Business.

Michael Speaker is Executive Vice President, General Counsel, and Corporate Secretary of City National Bank. Michael oversees the Legal and Corporate Administrative Group, which consists of legal and corporate governance. He is also a member of its Strategy & Planning committee and Executive

Council. In addition, he serves as General Counsel for the intermediate holding company of Royal Bank of Canada's U.S. operations. Previously, he served as deputy General Counsel at Fifth Third Bancorp and as deputy chief counsel at the U.S. Department of the Treasury. Michael graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a major in government and the University of Virginia School of Law, where he earned his Juris Doctor.

These new directors join a host of newer and longstanding LFLA directors, including Debra Albin-Riley, Partner at law firm ArentFox Schiff LLP, who serves as LFLA Board Chair; The Honorable Karen Stevenson, who serves as LFLA Board Vice-Chair; finance executive David Rosenblum, who serves as LFLA Treasurer; and philanthropist Kim Sonnenblick, who serves as LFLA Secretary. The Board also includes Robert Alvarado; Betsy Applebaum; Debi Bishton; Nicole Neeman Brady; Helen Bremer; Brendon Cassidy; Carla Christofferson; Nancy deBrier; Sunita Deshmukh; Sandy Dunleavy; Kathryn Eidmann; Tom Geiser; Ginnifer Goodwin; Samantha Hanks; Thomas Heck; Michael T.M. Jones; Judith Kamins; Patricia Kao; Michael B. Keegan; Nancy Koven; Sarah Kate Levy; Kevin McKeon; Kevin Philip; Elizabeth Raposo; Lisa Richardson; Laura Rosenwald; The Honorable Laura Seigle; Rachel Small; Betsy Wanner; and Stephanie Yonekura.

For a full list of the Library Foundation of Los Angeles' Board of Directors and committee members, please visit [here](#).

About the Library Foundation of Los Angeles

The Library Foundation of Los Angeles provides critical support to the Los Angeles Public Library, resulting in free programs, resources, and services available to the millions of adults, children, and youth of Los Angeles. Through fundraising, advocacy, and innovative programs, the Library Foundation strengthens the Los Angeles Public Library and promotes greater awareness of its valuable resources. For more information, please visit LFLA.org.

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