Letter from the President

The contents of this newsletter tell a special story. It’s the story of the past fiscal year and the pivotal role our supporters have played in making a staggering quantity of resources available to the patrons of the Los Angeles Public Library.

Our fiscal year ended in June, but the story of our commitment to the Library continues. For example, last year the Library Foundation and Los Angeles Public Library commissioned an original set of murals created as part of the Getty’s Project Standard Time. L.A./L.A. Titled Visualizing Language, Guanacas in L.A., they were originally set to open on January 31st. Due to massive interest and countless requests from patrons, the murals have been extended through August 31st, 2018. If you have not yet viewed them I can tell you that you won’t be disappointed.

On the adjacent page we cover the launch of the Los Angeles Public Library’s “New Americans” program. I like to imagine new and aspiring citizens seeing the powerful Jazerl Johnson painting on the cover of this newsletter and considering our country in hopeful ways. Similarly, I like to imagine library patrons seeing our murals and feeling inspired by their honesty and beauty.

The Johns painting is currently on view at The Broad, where we are pleased to be partnering with for a series of visits to the Central Library. Between fiscal years 2015–2016 and 2016–2017, in person visits to the Central Library increased by 20%, and the annual report highlights some remarkable stats. But I want to come back to the Johns and his painting. “Between the years 2015 and 2017,” he thought, “my dream could come true.” The Library is increasing its support for immigrants.

We also committed to bringing communities together to foster inclusion, to inspire dialogue, and to learn from each other’s varied perspectives. The New Americans Initiative will begin to collect digital stories about immigrant journeys in order to share these experiences as part of our city’s rich cultural narratives. “We live in a city that is known for its diversity—for telling many stories. Everyone should see themselves in the narratives of Los Angeles—and there’s no better place to provide access to these stories and to share these stories widely than the public library,” said Madeleine Lefkowitz, the managing librarian for the New Americans Initiative.

The expansion of the New Americans Initiative includes the opening of “New Americans Centers” at six libraries staffed with immigration trained and Department of Justice (DOJ) library staff and immigration service partners who can answer highly technical questions on a range of topics as well as provide supportive assistance. “These centers—four of which are currently open and two more opening this summer—will also offer multimedia resources, workshops, and classes led by community partners. Individually, “Welcome Stations” at all 72 libraries with citizenship information and resources will promote access and services directly to patrons. Resources include language learning and literacy, Know Your Rights cards in 18 languages, financial coaching, lending materials directly to patrons. Resources include language learning and literacy, Know Your Rights cards in 18 languages, financial coaching, lending materials directly to patrons. Resources include language learning and literacy, Know Your Rights cards in 18 languages, financial coaching, lending materials directly to patrons.

We’re expanding access to information, services, and resources so that no one in Los Angeles feels alone in taking an extraordinary step to build a more secure and prosperous future for themselves and their families,” said the mayor, who was joined by City Librarian John P. Shin and leaders of major immigration service agencies.

Since 2012, the Los Angeles Public Library has partnered with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) to serve as centers of democracy for the community. “Our libraries belong to every Angeleno, and the New Americans Initiative will help bring our immigrant neighbors closer to the dreams of citizenship,” said Mayor Eric Garcetti at a recent event to kick-off this initiative at the Los Angeles Public Library. In time when trusted resources to help guide people along the path to citizenship are more important than ever, the Library is increasing its support for immigrants.

We make every effort to ensure the accuracy of each name and gift level. If a mistake is made please accept our apology and let us know by contacting Rebecca Sholes, Vice President, at RebeccaSholes@lapl.org or call 213.228.6100.

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Ten Years of Toasting

Over a decade of Annual Toasts, Young Literati members have been treated to hilarious readings from Oscar-nominee Kumail Nanjiani, Chelsea Handler, Tig Notaro, Amber Tamblyn, Russell Brand, Betto and more; they have danced to an original song by Moby and teared up during Andrew Bird’s virtuoso violin performance; they have celebrated the Library’s successes with event MC’s Busy Philipps and Colin Hanks.

Most importantly, together members have raised almost three quarters of a million dollars for the Los Angeles Public Library.

Bringing together young Angelenos who share an interest in the literary life of our city, the Annual Toast has grown into one of the Foundation’s most spectacular annual fundraisers. The critical funds raised have supported a different Library effort each year, including new technology acquisition, Student Zones, Full STEAM Ahead, Summer Reading, Adult Literacy Initiatives, and this year, the Future-Ready Teens programming umbrella.

As we look forward to another unforgettable evening of celebrating the Library, here’s a look back at a decade of Toasting.

ALOUD Spring Preview: Laurie Anderson

As an artist you’ve pushed the boundaries of so many forms and disciplines and media—from experimental performance art to inventing new musical instruments and technology—usually working at the edge of the avant-garde. Writing a book is more mainstream by comparison—what made you want to publish this collection?

Anderson: I love books and treasure them. And it’s been a long time since I tried to put one together. I wanted to see if I could make something that still sounded like talking even though it ended up as print. Getting the sound of the voice into writing has always been a challenge. Plus, I wanted to make it conversational— to provoke, to suggest, to make something that didn’t wrap things up too neatly.

A lot of your work is in the performance realm, and you often refer to it as work-in-progress that evolves over time and changes with each new iteration. However, once a book goes to print, it is considered done. Did this idea of reaching a more final stopping point affect your creative process?

Anderson: Yes, you hit on the biggest downside of books for me. But I’m familiar with that finally from making films, and exhibitions. With this book there are many days when I woke up and I thought, What? Why didn’t I include that (idea/story/picture/you name it)?

The stories in your new collection span a lifetime of making art. How did you select which stories to include—what memories or moments did you gravitate towards that felt essential to tell?

Anderson: I tried to stick to stories and how they affected and were affected by images, and so I tended to leave out lyrics for the most part and music almost completely. Since I’m known more as a musician than a visual artist I enjoyed the challenge. Also, with music it’s almost always better to play it than to write about it.

You’ve created political work through different historic moments, and today we are facing incredible challenges with the divisive political climate in our country. Why is storytelling important to you in the context of politics?

Anderson: The minute that politicians realized the power of stories—the story machine went into hyper-drive. You can set that date recently, or as far back as the mid-twentieth century, or as far back as the Norse myths. The stories that are being created, disseminated, analyzed, and promoted to achieve political ends these days are completely fascinating to me. Who’s writing them and who they’re addressed to is as crucial as the content.
**The Library Foundation Calendar Spring 2018**

**MON, APRIL 2, 7:30 PM**

**Exit West**

Mohsin Hamid

In conversation with author Viet Thanh Nguyen

A New York Times bestselling author shares a profound story about immigration and the universal human need to search for a better world.

**TUES, MARCH 13, 7:30 PM**

**Misfits Unite**

Lidia Yuknavitch & Amber Tamblyn

In conversation with journalist Ann Friedman

Two trailblazing artists who have embarked on unlikely creative journeys share the stage to discuss the art of non-conformity and their recent books.

**THURS, APRIL 19, 7:30 PM**

**The Mars Room**

Rachel Kushner

In conversation with novelist Amy Hempel

The bestselling author of The Flamethrower on her new novel about a woman polarizing life inside and outside of prison.

**THURS, MAY 24, 7:30 PM**

**Planetary of the Blind: A Poet’s Journey**

Steve Kusnisto

Co-presented with Louise Steinman

Post and disability activist Kusnisto takes us on his epic journey of discovering that life with a guide dog is both a method and a state of mind.

**THURS, MAY 10, 7:30 PM**

**The End of Capitalism: My Battle with the European and American Deep Establishment**

Yanis Varoufakis

Co-presented with USC Riverside Creative Writing Department

A blistering account from the former finance minister of Greece on the momentous shakedown of global economics from one of the world’s most renowned economists.

**TUES, MARCH 13, 7:30 PM**

**The Justice of Contradictions: Antonin Scalia and the Politics of Disruption**

Rick Hasen

In conversation with Erwin Chemerinsky, Dean, Berkeley Law, University of California

Two prominent legal scholars offer a nuanced perspective on one of the most influential—and complex— Justices ever to serve on the United States Supreme Court.

**THURS, APRIL 5, 7:30 PM**

**Unbreakable Spirit: The Freed Angola Three**

Robert King and Albert Woodfox

In conversation with Bryan Ekin, Director, UCLA Prison Education Program

Activists speak to the extremes of solitary confinement and represent the struggle of those unjustly incarcerated.

**THURS, APRIL 5, 7:30 PM**

**Between Thought and Expression: Stories About Stories**

Laurie Anderson

In conversation with author Maggie Nelson

An icon of performance art and the indie music world transverses four decades of breaking ground in the act of storytelling.

**THURS, MAY 24, 7:30 PM**

**Talking to My Daughter About the Economy: How Capitalism Works—and How It Fails**

Yanis Varoufakis

In conversation with Alix Cohen, 89.3 KPCC’s “Morning Edition” host

A clear, vivid, and urgent lesson on global economics from one of the world’s most renowned economists.

**Additional support provided by**

The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation

Los Angeles Public Library

**For more information on these programs, book signings, and book purchases**

ALOUD: lfla.org/aloud or 213.390.6015

General Programs: lfla.org/calendar or 213.390.6242

**Location**

Unless otherwise indicated, programs take place at Richard J. Riordan Central Library

Mark Taper Auditorium

Brayton, Los Angeles

435 W. Fifth St., Los Angeles, CA 90071

Not printed at City expense

**Membership**

Members of the Library Foundation of Los Angeles can call for info on events and programs throughout the year.

For more information about Membership benefits, visit lfla.org/join or call 213.292.6242 today!
Public libraries are at the heart of our community, culture, education, and democracy. Protecting a space that is free, open, and welcoming to all is more important than ever and the Library Foundation of Los Angeles is committed to transforming Los Angeles and the world through the power of libraries. Our work over the last fiscal year provided critical support to the hundreds of thousands of adults, children, and youth of Los Angeles who depend on the Los Angeles Public Library. With our deepest gratitude to the people, foundations, community organizations, and businesses that share our belief in the transformational power of the Los Angeles Public Library, here we show a shining light on the impact of our work between July 2016 and June 2017.

### HOW WE SUPPORT THE NEXT GENERATION

#### Making Reading Fun

- 2,136 story-times led by librarians to encourage the core literacy skills of talking, reading, writing, singing, and playing.
- 1,938 children, teens, and adults took part in 49 Summer Author programs across 44 libraries citywide.

#### Tools for Parents

- 834 parents attended pre-literacy workshops. 99% of participants reported it strengthened their ability to support the development of core literacy skills. 80% said they will share what they learned with another parent.

#### Inspiring Year-Round Reading

- 67,508 children, teens, and adults took part in the Summer at the Library that encourages participants to read by rewarding them for making learning a part of the summer break.

#### Tools for Academic Success

- 220,186 fine-free and all-inclusive Student Success library cards issued to K-12 students in the Los Angeles Unified School District. The Library will distribute Student Success cards to the remaining 520,000 LAUSD students by summer 2018.
- 30,213 free Live Homework Help tutoring sessions provided K-12 students access to professional tutors in multiple core and advanced subjects. 97% of students surveyed agreed the program is helping to improve their grades.
- 1,789 students participated in 107 practice tests, sessions, seminars, and workshops at 56 libraries as part of Student Smart.
- 943 students took part in the five-course SAT Preparation Series across 24 branches.
- 34 Students Zones in neighborhood libraries in some of L.A.’s lowest income communities provided children and teens with dedicated access to laptops and a Homework Helper to assist them with assignments and guide them to LAPL’s academic resources.
- 2,121 interactive, hands-on summer programs offered across the city, including story-times with L.A. Dodgers players and manager Dave Roberts.
- 4,272,540 minutes read by Summer at the Library participants.
- 13,480 free lunches served to children and teens throughout the summer at 14 libraries.

### New This Year

#### Pathways sucessfully connected formerly incarcerated individuals with free resources including literacy classes, tutors, financial planning workshops, and job resources to prevent recidivism and ensure a successful transition into society.

#### Visualizing Language: Oaxaca in L.A., an exhibition celebrating L.A.’s cultural diversity, opened in fall 2017 and has attracted over 30,000 visitors.

### HOW WE SUPPORT FUTURE LEADERS

#### Improving Health and Wellbeing

- 11,580 audience members exchanged ideas with 126 world-renowned authors, artists, performers, panelists, and interlocutors during 51 live ALOUD programs and 7 offsite events.
- 44 young adults employed and trained to work as Homework Helpers in their local Student Zones.
- 300,000+ views per month of the Library’s Digital Photo Collection through the Foundation’s efforts to protect and preserve original items from the Los Angeles Public Library’s vast collection.
- 254,883 ALOUD videos and podcasts downloaded from 123 different countries.
- 96% of audience members surveyed said ALOUD increased their knowledge of the topics addressed.

#### Cultivating an Informed and Engaged Community

- 102 adult students graduated with an accredited high school diploma and career certificate from Career Online High School.
- 5,640 individuals educated on health insurance options and accessing health care. 90% of those surveyed reported an increased understanding of and/or intended use of health insurance benefits.
- 16,970 individuals provided with education, screenings, and information on a range of health topics such as nutrition and physical activity.
- 943 students participated in 167 practice tests, sessions, seminars, and workshops at 56 libraries as part of Student Smart.
- 96% of patrons surveyed agreed that Cybernauts provide a valuable service.

### New Pathways to Knowledge and Success

#### Cultivating an Informed and Engaged Community

- 48,897 hours of one-on-one tutoring for 626 adult learners provided by 632 volunteer tutors through Adult Literacy programs.
- 100% of adult literacy participants reported that they met at least one of their personal literacy goals, including learning the alphabet, passing the U.S. citizenship test, or obtaining a work-related license or certificate.
- 11,580 audience members exchanged ideas with 126 world-renowned authors, artists, performers, panelists, and interlocutors during 51 live ALOUD programs and 7 offsite events.
- 30,864 children, teens and adults across Los Angeles attended 1,400 Full STEAM Ahead! (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) programs. 83% of participants agreed they wanted to learn more about science and technology after attending these programs.
- 49,525 patrons provided personal computer training by Cybernauts at 38 libraries.

#### Inspiring Year-Round Reading

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A Year of Growth

The fiscal well-being of the Library Foundation continues to be strengthened, thereby safeguarding programs and services for Angelenos. Total revenue increased 12% this year, and the ways in which donors support the Library Foundation have expanded. We are grateful to the thousands of Angelinos who care deeply about the role and mission of the Los Angeles Public Library.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Donor Listing, cont.
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.

Developed to celebrate L.A. as the creative capital of the world, LA Original products showcase the remarkable vision of the city’s assorted makers. Budding with eclectic finds, LA Original items purchased at The Library Store support the Downtown Women’s Center and the Los Angeles Public Library.

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

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

Become a Member of the Library Foundation of Los Angeles to strengthen the Los Angeles Public Library! lfla.org / 213.228.7500