Summer 2019
News and Calendar

This Summer, the Library Foundation is Branching Out.
More information inside.
Letter from the President

This past spring was a memorable one for the Library Foundation and Los Angeles Public Library. Due to the generosity of our library supporters, our 2019 Annual Young Literati Toast and Stay Home and Read a Book Ball were the most successful on record. Thank you one and all for such a lovely way to begin the summer.

During the summer months, libraries always flourish with patrons. How fortunate we are to have 73 library locations where anyone can take a staycation in the stacks, finding their curiosity in such an inspiresetting. Personally, I love to see children and young adults experiencing Summer at the Library. This year, there are opportunities for young patrons to be read to by a member of the Dodgers, take part in a toon film fest, or to hear from one of 47 award-winning authors through “Your Author Series” (more information on the pages ahead).

Now this summer, the Library Foundation's ALOUD series has exciting plans for reaching new audiences. “Branching Out” will take place in the public spaces outside of five neighborhood libraries. Through these programs we will learn more about our city and the literature that has helped to shape it. I can't wait to be seated in front of a tree in the garden beside a favorite library, listening to a writer whom I admire, and taking part in a conversation about the nature of our city.

I am very pleased to announce that this fall, award-winning author and cultural historian Josh Kue will explore the Library’s library and manuscript collection, his third undertaking following Stages in the Key of L.A. and To Live and Dine in L.A. This project will illustrate how individuals have made their mark in Los Angeles, examining how we are remembered and how we can contribute to our city.

As you prepare to take family vacations, sip lemonade on a hot day, and find yourselves lost in a good book, we hope you will find a moment to join us at the library.

Ron Brecher
President

Quick Hits

Richard J. Riordan Continues to Give Back

The Library Foundation of Los Angeles and Los Angeles Public Library send a sincere note of gratitude to former Mayor Richard J. Riordan and his wife Elizabeth for a record-breaking $3 million gift in support of Live Homework Help. On the occasion of his birthday, Riordan and close friends gathered in the Central Library (a building that bears Riordan’s name) to dedicate the gift.

“When you get to be my age and good fortune has smiled on you, you no longer need or want birthday presents. It’s much more fun to give than to get presents on your birthday. That’s why I’m here today: to give the students in the city love, my birthday present. Those of you who know me, know I love learning. And I love libraries where so much learning happens,” Riordan said.

2019 Stay Home and Read a Book Ball Breaks Fundraising Records!

Gifts received through June 30, 2019 will count towards this year’s fundraising total, so there’s still time to donate! Here’s how:

Go to LFLA.ORG/StayHome2019
OR send a text to 41444 with the word “Library” to donate directly from your cell phone.

Thank you for your support!

Final Update: 21 Collections: Every Object Has a Story

21,855. That is the number of walnuts it took to make the walnut elephant, the centerpiece of the exhibition 21 Collections: Every Object Has a Story, which ran at the Central Library from March 15 to May 19. Of those walnuts, the library collected entire walnuts from the 4,000 patrons who visited the exhibition, and made 41 elephant trunk crate labels, menus, maps, movie posters, and more. Visit the Library’s Rare Books Room. Request an appointment at lapl.org.

Meet Kintaro: a mythical Japanese figure known for his uncanny strength, a protector of the common folk, a champion of the people, a symbol of bravery and courage, and a fitting new face of the Los Angeles Public Library.

Blending traditional Japanese mythology and contemporary L.A. graffiti art, local artist Guin Fujita has given a street-styled makeover to L.A.’s iconic library card with a fresh rendering of Kintaro—clad in a Dodgers jersey and rising above a colorful backdrop of gold leaf gilded panels featuring graffiti art.

Now available at all 73 citywide libraries, the Los Angeles Public Library has released a limited edition of 100,000 library cards featuring Fujita’s artwork. The card’s image comes from a detail of his painting, “Guardian Angel,” based on an ukiyo-e print by Tsukioka Yoshitoshi from 1868. “I wanted to create a beautiful, meaningful design, created in L.A., to our library card connects even more Angelinos to the amazing collections and services we offer at the Los Angeles Public Library,” said City Librarian John F. Sabo.

Our Library is very much a cultural institution and celebrating the arts is an important part of who we are. Bringing beautiful, meaningful design, created in L.A., to our library card connects even more Angelinos to the amazing collections and services we offer at the Los Angeles Public Library.

As Sabo remarked before launching the new card in a special ceremony at Central Library with Fujita—this card has tremendous power. “This is the only card that let's you access more than six million books and items in the Library's collection, as well as download e-books and music, stream movies, get online homework help, earn a high school diploma, and much more—more than all for free.”

Los Angeles Public Library News

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LAPL’s STAR Program Shines Bright for 30 Years

This year’s “Summer at the Library” theme will set the stage for thousands of children, teens, and families to keep reading through the summer break. Every year, the Los Angeles Public Library’s literacy programming evolves, and this season’s offerings will engage with Angelenos of all ages in new and exciting ways, while also offering some favorite activities and resources from summers past and giving everyone the chance to win a series of exciting prizes.

It’s showtime—be a star at the library! Read, Create, and Discover All Summer Long

Be a star at the library and join the Summer Reading Challenge. Participants earn badges and incentives for reading and completing activities that can be logged on a game board, through our online portal, or mobile app. Now, there’s a Grand Prize Awards Ceremony and After Party will be held on August 10.

More information: lapl.org/summer

Show off your talent, your enthusiasm, and your creative spirit in the Town of LA Film Fest, the first-ever teen film festival produced by the library. If you are between the ages of 11–18, you are invited to submit your short film between June 10 and July 27. The top finishers will be screened at a special awards celebration at Central Library on August 10.

More information: lapl.org/teens

Building stronger connections with local communities, Central Library and 13 Los Angeles Public Library branches will offer new Pop-Up Library Programming this summer at sites that serve free meals such as parks, community centers, affordable housing communities, and schools.

More information: lapl.org/summerlunch

“Live a live to learn, and learn to live.” —Benjamin Franklin, who currently leads the STAR program, runs training workshops to equip the volunteers with techniques to engage all interests and levels of literacy. The workshops provide volunteers with lists of book titles and ideas for how to motivate children to read, but Fabicon also emphasizes that the dynamic experience is very child-directed, which creates a special bond between the volunteer and child. “That interaction is the most important aspect of the program and shows how the Library leaves the community together.”

Nicole McElhose, who began volunteering at the Lincoln Heights Branch as soon as she moved to Los Angeles six years ago, knows the importance of building this personal connection. “The fact that I see kids and their families on a regular basis is pretty illustrative of the positive impact that this program is having on the community.”

McElhose. She strives to make her storytimes a truly engaging experience with singing, dance parties, making bookmarks, and more. “The progression I’ve seen from some of these kids over the course of a few years or even just a few months has been nothing short of extraordinary. Seeing that love of reading take root is, hands down, one of the biggest joys of doing the STAR program.”

And the generosity of such deeply committed volunteers does not go unnoticed. Walter believes there’s something really special about the kids awareness that volunteers are not paid to read to them—they are showing up to be there out of love. “Programs like this really get people involved with their local library,” says Walter. “It’s one of the unseen roles of libraries—it’s where people can see other people from their community all doing positive things.”

If you are interested in becoming a STAR volunteer, call the Youth Services department at 213.228.7480, or check with your local branch about volunteer opportunities.

Grand Prize Award Ceremony and After Party will be held on August 24!

Take a seat at the library and join the Storytelling and Learning Division, and Madeline Bryant, associate director of Youth Services, both agree this early dedication of staff and volunteers and their belief in the power of the program for the communities it serves established such a joyful experience that more and more people wanted to take part. In 2012, LAPL opened up the volunteer opportunities to adults of all ages and changed the name to STAR. Interest has continued to grow and this year a new pilot program is underway to train teen volunteer readers.

A comprehensive training process for all volunteers is another pillar of the program’s success. Senior Librarian for Children’s Services, Joanna Fabicon, who currently leads the STAR program, runs training workshops to equip the volunteers with techniques to engage all interests and levels of literacy. The workshops provide volunteers with lists of book titles and ideas for how to motivate children to read, but Fabicon also emphasizes that the dynamic experience is very child-directed, which creates a special bond between the volunteer and child. “That interaction is the most important

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Each participating branch is receiving a grant to support new STEAM activities, free book giveaways, and more. In addition, young people ages 1-18 across the city will once again be eligible to receive free lunches Monday-Friday from June 10 until August 9 at 15 branches and Central Library.

More information: lapl.org/summerlunch

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More information: lapl.org/labs

Central Library’s new digital media lab and maker space, Octavia Lab, opens its doors on June 13, giving everyone a new space to create, innovate, and work. Named after pioneering author and storyteller Octavia E. Butler, the lab will provide free access to computers, equipment, 3D printers, and studio space for projects of all kinds.

More information: lapl.org/labs

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Coming Soon: The Autograph Book of L.A.

How would you leave your mark on the city? In 1906, City Librarian Charles Lummis initiated an autograph collection, soliciting hundreds of notable men and women from across the country to submit a representative expression or artwork to the Los Angeles Public Library’s permanent collection. In the fall of 2019, the Library Foundation and Los Angeles Public Library will bring to life this historic collection with a new book and exhibit.

Following “Songs in the Key of L.A.” and “To Live and Dine in L.A.”, “The Autograph Book of L.A.” is the third in a series of projects examining and activating the special collections of the Los Angeles Public Library, curated by Josh Kun, author and Director of the USC Annenberg School of Communication, along with the leadership of City Librarian John F. Szabo.

Many patrons took part in last summer’s Autograph Day, an event designed to collect over 100 new entries for this project. Stay tuned for more details about how those contemporary marks will be featured with this forthcoming project that includes original watercolors, sketches, written music, poems, and moving sentiments from the likes of author L. Frank Baum, painter James Carroll Beckwith, “America the Beautiful” songwriter Katherine Lee Bates, Langston Hughes, Isaac Asimov, Helen Keller, and many others.

The Continuing Evolution of ALOUD

If you are a member of ALOUD’s loyal audience, you have noticed some fundamental changes over the last several months. Most notably, ALOUD has been busy expanding its reach to new locations and communities, as it experiments with new formats.

The Library Foundation’s goal is to make public programs available and appealing to all of Los Angeles, and for audiences to think of ALOUD as a program that contains multitudes. What was once primarily a literary conversation series is now a portfolio of programs that is not limited to one definition.

The information on this page outlines some of the exciting plans for the coming year. Turn to page 8 for a detailed calendar, and always remember to check lfla.org/calendar for updates.

OH, THOSE SUMMER DAYS

This summer, the Library Foundation is excited to present a new series of cultural programming to more deeply engage libraries and their local communities. “Branching Out” will connect neighborhood libraries to the public spaces outside their doors for lively activities. Featuring readings and performances from inspiring Angelenos, we’ll celebrate the dynamic public spaces of our great city as we gather for music, food trucks, and fun under the SoCal sun.

IN PRINT

The beloved literary conversations with today’s leading authors has stayed intact. Recent events featured Michael Pollan, Rachel Cusk, Marlon James, and others. Though literary events are on hiatus this summer, they will pick up again this fall.

DOWN TO A SCIENCE

Currently in development for winter 2020, ALOUD is cooking up a brand new series celebrating the many influences and diverse history of L.A.’s lively food scene.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The book is a sequel to the 1906 collection, with entries from a new generation of Los Angelesians. It includes over 100 new signatures from the likes of author L. Frank Baum, painter James Carroll Beckwith, “America the Beautiful” songwriter Katherine Lee Bates, Langston Hughes, Isaac Asimov, Helen Keller, and many others.
Live From The Library

Highlights from the Young Literati Eleventh Annual Toast

Singer/composer Holly Miranda shares her beautiful music with the Young Literati Toast audience.

A crowd of almost 300 Young Literati members and their guests crack up during the show.

Actress Constance Zimmer battles a wardrobe malfunction with humor.


Kate Dollenmayer, archivist from the Academy Archive, explores the theme of “home” at Lost & Found at the Movies.

Singer/songwriter Holly Miranda shares her beautiful music with the Young Literati Toast audience.

Actress Constance Zimmer battles a wardrobe malfunction with humor.

Geraint Owen, Toast to another successful Toast; this year, the event raised almost $190,000.

Performers Paul F. Tompkins and Natalie Morales with Colin Hanks and Young Literati Chair Samantha Hanks.

Past performer Natasha Rothwell joins the party as an Honorary Host.

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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.

The Great Outdoors

This summer, The Library Store is celebrating all things nature. Shop for these picturesque products in our shop located in the beautiful Central Library. Library Foundation Members receive discounts online and in the shop.

213.228.7550 / shop.lfla.org / librarystore@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