Letter from the President

When I was growing up in Highland Park, Illinois, I frequented my neighborhood library in the center of town. I was one of the last in my class to learn how to read, and even worse, my twin sister was excelling in the same skill that was eluding me.

But in the library, nobody seemed to care that I hadn’t yet caught up. My encouraging advocate was Miss Boyer, the friendly librarian who would personally select the books she thought I would like, such as The Story of Redhead the Fox. When I read that book, it didn’t matter that it moved too fast, or that I stumbled over more words than I could count. What mattered was that in the Library, I could practice for hours. This place gave me the ability and the access to learn on my own terms.

I often remember Miss Boyer and those early literacy skills I gained because of her when I think about the Library Foundation’s work with the Los Angeles Public Library. I think about how, according to the National Assessment of Adult Literacy, one million people in Los Angeles lack basic English prose literacy skills—they do not have the ability to read a job-related or community newsletter. Whether parents are learning to read for the first time or learning English as a second language, I am reminded every single day how essential the Library Foundation’s work is.

Linda Duttenhaver’s generous annual donation benefited over 5,200 school-aged children last year who participated in the nearly 160 practice test sessions, topical seminars, and writing workshops offered in 57 branch libraries across the city as part of the StudentZoom program. StudentZoom is crucial to the success of students in Los Angeles—preparing them for the journey through higher education from middle to high school, to college, and beyond.

The California Wellness Foundation has awarded its first grant to the expansion of Health Matters, a program that provides health education and assistance to residents of Los Angeles who live in neighborhoods with the lowest rate of health insurance. Last year, Health Matters successfully delivered 1,705 workshops and activities to over 23,000 individuals. The new partnership between the Library and Cal Wellness will expand this outreach, offer multi-lingual workshops, and increase community access to the different health coverage options, including assistance with enrollment into Covered California and Medi-Cal.

Encouraging young people in our city towards brighter futures, continued support from the Jean Perkins Foundation has made the Los Angeles Public Library’s signature program of the Los Angeles Public Library. Thanks to a renewed grant for the upcoming year, the number of online tutoring sessions is expected to increase to 45,000, making it possible for the Library to extend this essential educational resource to students in Los Angeles.

The Ring Foundation is a new supporter of the growing Cybrarian at the Los Angeles Public Library. With their increased funding, the presence of Cybrarian will extend to five additional branch locations in 2016, offering personal tech concierges at 27 libraries to assist patrons for computer-related questions or concerns, while also providing meaningful part-time employment to young adults across the city.

I encourage you to visit your local branch and learn about these programs for yourself.

Thanks to Our Recent Grantmakers

The Library Foundation of Los Angeles raises critical funds for the Los Angeles Public Library resulting in five programs, resources, and services available to the millions of adults, children, and youth of Los Angeles. This work is made possible because of the generosity of many supporters—and we send sincere thanks to the following donors who have recently invested their dollars in transforming Los Angeles through the power of our libraries.

FullSteam Ahead! an integrated science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM) program has recorded significant multi-year funding from two new generous grantmakers. Through the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program, the Institute of Museum and Library Services has invested in a three-year grant and the W.M. Keck Foundation has provided a two-year grant. This new support will strengthen the FullSteam Ahead! program across 40 library locations that serve primarily low-income communities, including: providing 255 librarians with professional training on STEAM topics, expanding public STEAM programming for nearly 10,000 children, teens, and adults, replenishing and increasing supplies and materials; and creating a robust online platform to share curricula and resources with librarians nationwide.

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Checking In: Eva Mitnick, Director of Central Library

Just three weeks on the job as Director of Central Library, we sat down with the head of Los Angeles Public Library’s bustling epicenter. Although Eva Mitnick is new to the position, the Los Angeles Public Library pulses through her blood. She literally grew up in the Library—her mother was manager of the Malabar branch and of the Northeast area, so Mitnick spent her Saturdays as a child tagging along to all of those libraries.

Since 1997, she has worked in the Library’s system herself—beginning as a student librarian, to a children’s librarian at several branches, to branch manager at Robertson, to most recently the Coordinator of Children’s Services at Central, where she mastered not only innovative programming as an FullSteam Ahead! Now responsible for the parks and bolts of Central Library like staffing, security, and maintaining the historical building, Mitnick is also tasked with transforming one of our city’s most beloved educational and cultural institutions for a new era. Here’s what she’s envisioning for the future.

Although you only started your new position after Library Day, you’ve already managed to lift Central Library for over eight years. What do you love about this place?

Mitnick: I love the architecture and the Rotunda. I love the weird features like the sphinxes and all the filled in parts. There’s a status of civilization that’s between the sphinxes on the second floor near the staircase and Getty Gallery. That one status has so much symbolism on it— she has shoulders with a bear of California and a tiny replica of City Hall. She’s got her staff on a turtle, which symbolizes dominance over earth and ocean. It goes on and on. I live all the details of the Library—the tile work is so gorgeous. Then there’s the amazing collection—from the Meso Collection to the Photo Collection, and on. There’s the periodical pool down in Lower Level 4 where there are old issues of newspapers and magazines and you can head through May’s Rabbit from 1837.

What are your initial thoughts about the future at Central Library?

Mitnick: I would like to see Central more vibrant as a community library. There’s been a huge change in downtown in the last 20 years—the restaurant scene, the bars, the entertainment, the museums are all amazing. People love here now and at night and they are walking their dogs. We could host dog obedience classes in the garden. Or we could host quickie lunchtime seminars for all the businesses folk who come stamping through the Library as shortcut. We don’t want you to leave the doors, learn the demographics, and get them in the Library.

State of Deception: The Power of Nazi Propaganda

March 10 to May 8, 2016

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum’s special exhibit on view at Central Library as part of its national tour

State of Deception promotes new understanding about the nature and consequences of propaganda. The exhibition illustrates the Nazis’ use of the latest sophisticated technologies and techniques to disseminate propaganda消息, and it asks us to consider the relationship of history and its implications for today.
Literary Feasts

On October 26, over 800 guests gathered in 47 homes across Los Angeles for a uniquely delicious celebration. Raising $1.2 million dollars for the Los Angeles Public Library, the Literary Feasts brought together the most generous supporters of the Library Foundation with celebrated authors such as A. Scott Berg, Michael Connelly, Jim Newton, Maria Semple, Mona Simpson, and Kenneth Turan, among others. Spanning La Canada to Santa Monica, each Feast served up one-of-a-kind evening—from a discussion of Suzanne Olgarache while sipping on Petrossian Caviar, to lovers of the hit series Empire toasting in a Koreatown art studio, to an expert in cyber crime and terrorism speaking at an ambassador’s home on the future of global security.

Since 1997, The Council of the Library Foundation has hosted these dinners to raise funds for the Library’s educational programs focusing on children, teens, technology, and adult literacy. This year’s Literary Feasts were made possible thanks to the dedication of Literary Feasts Chairs Anne Johnson and Mary Beth Thomas and Council President Ellen Lipton, along with a team of volunteers. Thanks to the generosity of major supporters, including: Judith Krantz, the Flora L. Thornton Foundation, Jean Perkins Foundation, Wallis Annenberg, Nancy and Michael Harahan, O’Melveny & Myers LLP/Mack and Rosa Roston, and Sharon and Nelson Rising.

New Year, New Resolutions at the Library

Goal: Build a Community

The Library, has always been a cornerstone of our community, and here’s how you can give back, get involved, and learn more about all things local.

Book Clubs
From mysteries, new releases, histories to LGBTQ topics, connect with like-minded book lovers for a study discussion group in one of the many branches libraries.

Volunteer
Last year, over 7,000 volunteers supported the 71 libraries across the city. Each location has different volunteer needs, so contact your local branch for more information on opportunities.

The History of Your House
The Library can help you search the history of a residence through online databases of historical records, maps, archival newspapers, and the city directory, or visit the Central Library’s History Department for research assistance.

Goal: Learn Something New

Interested in taking a class? Learning a new language? From online learning tools to in-person resources and programs, the Library has you covered.

Lynda.com
An award-winning online learning site that offers more than 1,000 courses taught by recognized industry experts, and 150,000 hours of tutorials, instructions, technical and creative skills.

Trace Your Roots
Visit the Genealogy Collection at Central Library—from censuses, immigration, and military records to the records and cost of census sources; the collection includes over 150,000 titles and more than 10,000 genealogies.

Attend ALOUD
Check out the calendar on TPL.gov for the upcoming season of our award-winning series of conversations, readings, and performances with today’s top writers, thinkers, scientists, and more.

Goal: Get Healthy

Theough Health Matters, the Los Angeles Public Library offers workshops and resources on a variety of health topics at each of the 71 branches. Check the Library’s Calendar of Events to learn more about upcoming events.

Enroll in Health Insurance
Eligibility specialists from the LA County Department of Public Social Services can help you and your family sign up for Medi-Cal, Covered California, CalFresh, and other government assistance programs.

Take a Workshop
From vegetarian living to exploring how hypertension, diabetes and Alzheimer’s disease affect your brain’s health, learn about a range of health related topics.

De-stress
With Tai Chi, Yoga, or Mindful Meditation Classes across many branches.

Goal: Tackle Your Finances

Need help making a budget or preparing your taxes? Los Angeles Public Library’s Money Matters offers library and online resources and tools on income tax savings, credit, investments, budgeting, financial planning, and consumer protection.

Buy Your First Home
The Neighborhood Housing Services of LA County hosts free workshops on taking the steps towards first-time home ownership.

Fix Your Credit
A free “Building and Maintaining Credit” workshop covers the basics of managing your money and establishing and maintaining good credit.

Start a Small Business
Free one-on-one counseling is provided by a business professional to anyone operating a small business or thinking of starting one.

Goal: Reward Yourself

Beyond checking out the latest bestseller or streaming a movie from home, there are many ways to enhance your lifestyle through the Library.

Patent that Innovation
The Science, Technology, and Patents Department of Central Library offers computerized searching of patents, trademarks, and copyrights.

Save on Subscriptions
From The New Yorker to the New York Times, library users have access to Zinio, which provides full color, interactive digital magazines of your favorite titles with no holds, no checkout periods, and no limit to the number of downloads.

Get Rid of the Guilt
Don’t feel burdened with fees in the new year… pay your library fines! Pay online at lapl.org or in-person at any branch.

Goal: New Year, New Resolutions at the Library

If making and breaking resolutions is ubiquitous to the start of your new year, let the Los Angeles Public Library provide you with the FREE resources to realize your goals. Here are some ideas for ways to succeed at the January challenge.

Loyalty in the Library’s History Department for research assistance.

If making and breaking resolutions is ubiquitous to the start of your new year, let the Los Angeles Public Library provide you with the FREE resources to realize your goals. Here are some ideas for ways to succeed at the January challenge.
The New, a tribute to the planet’s is the third in a series of projects that consider classic texts through a contemporary Californian perspective, following the great success of Moby Dick and The Odyssey. The project will introduce Los Angeles audiences to the dictionary’s importance as a system for naming, ordering and comprehending the world around us. By drawing attention to the OED, we hope to generate a public conversation about words, language, communication and creative thinking, and how dictionaries serve and support these activities.

In March 2016, the Los Angeles Public Library and Library Foundation will produce a month-long series of events looking at the Oxford English Dictionary (OED) through the lens of living in Southern California. The project will introduce Los Angeles audiences to the dictionary’s importance as a system for naming, ordering and comprehending the world around us. Hollywood Is a Verb: Los Angeles Tackles the Oxford English Dictionary is the third in a series of projects that consider classic texts through a contemporary Californian perspective, following the great success of Moby Dick and The Odyssey.

By drawing attention to the OED, we hope to generate a public conversation about words, language, communication and creative thinking, and how dictionaries serve and support these activities. Watch lfla.org for forthcoming details.
The Library Foundation Calendar  Winter 2016

Thursday, January 14, 7:15 PM
What the Eye Hears: A History of Tap Dancing
Brian Seibert
With performer Sarah Reich and saxophonist Danny Janklow
In conversation with Stacia Darnell, Director, 125th Anniversary Arts Journalism Program
Brian Seibert, author critic for The New York Times, offers an authoritative account of the great American art of tap dancing in his new book. What the Eye Hears: Seibert’s entertaining history illuminates tap’s complex origins—from the Jigg and Jelly Band to a form created out of African rhythms, to its ubiquity on Broadway and in Hollywood, and on to pop music and modern environmentalist. Seibert, born and raised in Los Angeles, will talk to the ALOUD stage to discuss tap’s influence on American culture, including the hip hop. A $20 early bird price. With archival film footage and special performances by the young, L.A. choreographer Sarah Reich, acclaimed as one of the new leaders in tap, this program will be sure to move you.

Wednesday, January 27, 7:15 PM
The Brain’s Way of Healing: Deep Time: A Novel
Ingrid Betancourt
In conversation with Christopher Enss, writer and professor
Betancourt, the extraordinary Colombian French politician and aristocrat, whose New York Times bestselling memoir chronicled her six and a half years as a captive in the Colombian jungle by the FARC. She offers an intimate account of the title freedom and set. Set against the backdrop of Argentina, Brazil and Bolivia, and influencers of magical realism, The Blue Line is a love story and deeply felt portrait of a woman’s coming of age as a country bloody deeper and deeper into chaos. Ideas from her past will be the new work that draws on themes from her own remarkable life — political oppression, personal courage, hope and faith. — extraordinary people are caught up in the luminosity of history.

The Blue Line: A Novel
Ingrid Betancour
In conversation with Christopher Enss, writer and professor
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Wednesday, February 17, 7:15 PM
Deep Time: A Documentary
Ingrid Betancourt
In conversation with Christopher Enss, writer and professor
Betancourt, the extraordinary Colombian French politician and aristocrat, whose New York Times bestselling memoir chronicled her six and a half years as a captive in the Colombian jungle by the FARC. She offers an intimate account of the title freedom and set. Set against the backdrop of Argentina, Brazil and Bolivia, and influencers of magical realism, The Blue Line is a love story and deeply felt portrait of a woman’s coming of age as a country bloody deeper and deeper into chaos. Ideas from her past will be the new work that draws on themes from her own remarkable life — political oppression, personal courage, hope and faith. — extraordinary people are caught up in the luminosity of history.

Wednesday, February 23, 7:15 PM
A Little Life: A Novel
Hanya Yanagihara
In conversation with Christopher Enss, writer and professor
Yanagihara, the tragic and transcendent lives of four men — an architect, painter, actor, author, — who must come together in order to move past the darkness. - a story that illuminates as in a fire, yet never destroys even as it begins. Given rise to a new geological age? Sussman, a LACMA Lab scientist, has travelled through the continents, in the footsteps of the world’s most revered travel writers, Salgado. This film, an Academy Award nominee for best documentary feature and winner of the Cannes Film Festival Un Certain Regard Special Prize for an intimate look at this masterful depiction of heartbreak and solidarity.

Thursday, February 17, 7:15 PM
The Salt of the Earth: A conversation with writer Pico Iyer
In conversation with writer Pico Iyer
A celebrated literary series of conversations, readings, and performances at the downtown Central Library, ALOUD brings together today’s most creative, cultural, social, and political luminaries to the city of Los Angeles and beyond. ALOUD at Central Library programs are FREE, unless otherwise indicated. Programs are subject to change.

Monday, February 29, 7:30 PM
The Broad Stage
An Evening with Sebastião Salgado
In conversation with writer Pico Iyer

The Brazilian professional photographer and UCSF Goodwin Anderson family fellow Sebastião Salgado (best known for three career defining projects: Migrations, documenting the vanishing life of manual laborers across the world, Australian, documenting the transition of the world’s people off the times of the twentieth century, and Missao, the story of the displacement of the world’s peoples and the impact of human intervention in nature), offers a stunning debut novel about a woman coming of age as her country falls deeper and deeper into chaos. Ideas from her past will be the new work that draws on themes from her own remarkable life — political oppression, personal courage, hope and faith. — extraordinary people are caught up in the luminosity of history.

The Salt of the Earth: A conversation with writer Pico Iyer
In conversation with writer Pico Iyer

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Highlights from the ALOUD fall season

Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer and CNN legal analyst Jeffrey Toobin in a lively discussion at The Wallis.

Beloved author Sandra Cisneros shares a moment with long-time friend and Los Angeles poet-laureate Luis J. Rodriguez during her book signing at Central Library.

Ta-Nehisi Coates and Robin D.G. Kelley engage questions from the audience during a program celebrating Coates’ best-selling new book Between the World and Me.

Highlights from the Young Literati’s recent celebrations

Young Literati Members Anastasia Johnson, Erika Borg, Karen Tracy, and guests celebrate the kickoff to the ALOUD fall season with an exclusive reception.

Young Literati Members, including Dominick Labrinc, Andrea Feathers, and Priscilla and Brennan Naiman enjoy a reception to celebrate Lauren Groff’s ALOUD program.

New Director of Young Literati Rebecca Miller gets to know Young Literati Members John Romley and Allison Varzally.

Author Jojo Moyes goofs around with a luncheon guest.

Author Jojo Moyes, guest Bob Bookman, and Council Chairman Mary Beth Thomas.

The Library Store Holiday Gift Guide

Happiness is a gift that’s purchased at The Library Store, because a purchase from The Library Store is a gift for the Los Angeles Public Library too! You’ll find everything from the perfect White Elephant gift for the office party to an elegant Los Angeles print for the L.A. lover and much more. Shop online, in-store, or at the various stops of The Library Store On Wheels.

1. California Dreams’ Baby One-Piece
   You may not have Baby New Year, but you might know a New Year’s baby. This one-piece is the gift for the baby with parents who love California. $28

2. Noisy Ball
   Jingles, crinkles, squeaks, and squishes — it’s the perfect thing for baby or toddler! $26.95

3. Los Angeles Print
   Deck the halls with this print designed by real architects using the tools of their trade. $28

4. Bookshelf Puzzles
   Everyone knows a puzzle lover, and since we’re all book lovers here, give the gift that comes from both worlds. $18.99

5. Two Years, Eight Months, and Twenty-Eight Nights
   by Salman Rushdie
   This is just one of the many autographed copies you can find at The Library Store. $25.00

6. Set of Six Sprout Bookmarks
   Sprout a love for learning with this adorable set. $9.00

7. Relatively Cool Knee-High Socks
   Einstein is relative and knee-high socks are cool, therefore, these socks are a relatively cool stocking stuffer! $12.50

8. Storm Trooper Coin Pouch
   A great gift for a Star Wars fan! Because by the time the holidays roll around, most fans will have only pennies left after seeing The Force Awakens so many times. $9.95

9. Enchanted Forest Coloring Book
   Have you heard? Coloring is a great way to relieve stress. Give a little peace-of-mind with this beautifully illustrated coloring book designed with adults in mind. $15.95

10. Fluorescent Color Pencils
    Complete any gift with these brighter than bright colored pencils. Remember: they go especially well with coloring books! $8.95

More Autographed Copies of Two Years, Eight Months, and Twenty-Eight Nights by Salman Rushdie at The Library Store.

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To place an order call: 213.228.7550
Or visit us online: lfla.org/store

Shopping at The Library Store supports the Los Angeles Public Library.
Give the Gift of Membership this Holiday Season and support free access to information and the civic, cultural, and educational core of our community.

From November 1 through December 31, when you become a Member, upgrade your Membership, or give the gift of Membership to a friend or loved one, every dollar you donate will be matched by a generous donor! Take this opportunity to see your contribution go twice as far to enhance the life-changing resources available at the Los Angeles Public Library.

Give $50 and it becomes $100, convert a $250 gift into a $500 impact that will help transform Los Angeles through the power of our Library.

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