

**All 73 Los Angeles  
Public Library  
locations now  
have official ballot  
drop boxes.**







## President's Note

As we enter the last few months of 2020, I am happy to be in touch with all of you. Thank you for your support as together we find our footing in modern digital spaces. Presenting quality programming and staying connected to you is our highest priority. Our joint commitment to seeing the Library thrive, especially during this time, is a testament to the critical value the LAPL provides to our communities.

This September, the Library Foundation was pleased to offer unique programming that expanded our vision of changing Los Angeles through the power of libraries. Our ALOUD series presented renowned political activists Robert Reich and Reverend Dr. William Barber speaking about the critical issue of equity and its importance to the most vulnerable populations in this country. What has stayed with me from their inspiring exchange is their shared belief that change in our country is something that we can all work toward together. Their thoughts about how to do this filled me with inspiration and optimism. Clearly, I was not alone in feeling fortunate to hear these two distinguished figures; the program has received over 227,000 views to date. As you know, our ALOUD programs have traditionally taken place in the 230-seat auditorium in the Central Library's S. Mark Taper Auditorium. Being able to reach such large numbers digitally is a lesson for the future.

The ALOUD series also presented acclaimed author D.J. Waldie speaking with *Los Angeles Times* journalist Carolina Miranda. Waldie's just-published book, *Becoming Los Angeles: Myth, Memory, and a Sense of Place*, is a personal and revealing testament to not only the history of our city but what he so perceptively understands is shaping its future.

We also transformed our biennial Literary Awards Dinner to a virtual production. This is one of our largest fundraisers of the year, and we honored former U.S. Poet Laureate Billy Collins with the Los Angeles Public Library Literary Award. Longtime Council of the Library Foundation member Marna Schnabel was honored with the Light of Learning Award. These two individuals were extremely deserving of the honors bestowed, and part of what made the evening so memorable was the participation of Halle Berry, George Hamilton, John Lithgow, and Sigourney Weaver—who related their own personal library stories. TV/radio host Alex Cohen was the delightful emcee for the evening.

Another wonderful moment of new beginnings this year was welcoming the next President of the Council of the Library Foundation, Ela Jhaveri. Ela has already brought her unique love of reading and personal knowledge of world literature to the Council through its weekly newsletter. I look forward to her journey in this role and the plans she has for the Council in the years ahead.

While I continue to miss the physical presence of the Library, I am reminded that the Library has always been a place of change and growth. From its online services to the Library To Go feature, the Library is providing thousands of Los Angelenos with free access to much needed tools, information, and of course, books. The public library remains a place where all are welcome and what we are learning in these unexpected times will inform our future and be remembered for years to come.

Ken Brecher, President

## Support Your Library on Giving Tuesday



**Mark your calendar for Giving Tuesday on December 1!**

Join us in celebrating the life-changing work of the Los Angeles Public Library on Giving Tuesday, a day of global generosity for individuals to help transform and inspire their communities by giving back to the organizations they value most.

Although you can give at any time, making a gift to the Library Foundation in honor of Giving Tuesday is a great way to help us keep the Library strong, vibrant, and able to pivot when necessary to increase digital access to the crucial programs and services that our community relies on.

Your gift of any size on Giving Tuesday will go twice as far! All donations and new or upgraded Memberships will be **matched by Bank of the West—up to \$10,000!**

Visit [lfla.org/give](https://lfla.org/give)



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.

## Los Angeles Public Library News

### The Library Continues to Evolve in the Ever-Changing World

When the Los Angeles Public Library had to close its doors in March, it quickly transformed with enhanced digital services. “The pandemic has challenged all of us to think and act differently. And with our staff’s creativity, determination and caring, we’ve met this challenge by expanding beyond the traditional role of a library,” said City Librarian John F. Szabo.

The Library’s website was soon reborn as “Library at Home” to showcase all of the digital collections and educational resources for families to use while children were home from school. Online borrowing increased by 40 percent, and sign-ups for e-library cards tripled.

Szabo credits the Library staff for rising to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 crisis. “Through their efforts, we’ve transitioned from being a system of 73 Libraries to focusing our attention on our role as provider of vital online services—services that help people navigate this very difficult time,” he explained.

Beyond offering a wide slate of free resources for immediate needs, the Los Angeles Public Library has also stepped up to preserve the history of these unprecedented times. “In good times and in challenging times, libraries are entrusted with stories, and today is no different,” said Szabo. “To document this moment and provide Angelenos with a window on this time, we created the Safer at Home Archive.” As part of this archival project, Angelenos were invited to submit photos, writings, and mementos of their experiences during the pandemic, which the Library is digitizing for its special collections. “The response has been tremendous, and Angelenos are eager to contribute—knowing that this moment and their experiences are being preserved.”



**Here's a snapshot of the myriad ways the Los Angeles Public Library has continued to evolve since March to meet the needs of our communities.**

Staff in Central Library's Octavia Lab makerspace repurposed 3-D printers and created more than 1,700 face shields for health workers at eight area hospitals.

More than 500 staff volunteered as city Disaster Service Workers and assisted at shelter sites, served as contact tracers, and helped seniors get meals and services.

Storytimes, author talks, performances, and discussions, and the entire Summer Reading Challenge were moved online.

The New Americans Initiative made citizenship classes accessible via Zoom.

The Career Online High School graduated its 400th student in the program's history, and doubled enrollment to 450 students.

New Street Fleet outreach vehicles launched in April, and have partnered with city departments, city council districts, and community organizations to provide over 2,000 books and 2,000 library cards to vulnerable Angelenos through socially distanced, drop off, and grab n' go events.

Once it was safe for staff and the public, the very popular Library To Go program was launched to offer curbside pickup of materials at 26 Libraries citywide.



# Year-End Giving

## Your Support Matters More Than Ever

The Los Angeles Public Library continues its unwavering commitment to serving our communities through these unprecedented times. With your support, we are able to help the Library remain **RESILIENT** in times of crisis, help individuals and families **RECOVER** from the hardships presented by the pandemic, and provide the literary and educational resources to **REBUILD** our world from home. We'd like to share a snapshot of how your support empowers the Los Angeles Public Library to thrive, and how you can make an impact with a year-end gift.



Since March, the Library has swiftly improved its virtual platforms to provide even greater accessibility to ideas and information across all audiences. *Summer at the Library*, one of the most popular literacy programs throughout the Library's history, moved online this year, offering entertaining and educational reading activities to engage kids and adults. "Reading is important because in a funny way it helps me stay sane and it gives me a better imagination 'cause it helps me escape from what's happening right now into a world of a book," said Leah Flores, a young patron of the Ben Franklin Library who mastered the Summer Reading challenge.

Rising to the challenges of this ever-changing world, librarians have been tirelessly working to help patrons navigate digital resources. As Senior Librarian Tina Princenthal told the Los Angeles Times about working the Library's InfoNow desk from her home: "For my department it's been very important that we're able to really listen to people and reassure them that the things that they're familiar with at the library, like having access to books, are available now in the form of e-books, and the things that they're used to like coming into the library to read the newspaper, they can now do that through their computer."

In addition to maintaining everyday services, librarians have also created a "Safer at Home" photo archive to document the experiences of Angelenos during this historical moment of the pandemic. Of course, one of the most exciting moments of the recovery process this summer was when the LAPL opened 20 branches for the Library To Go pickup service. Proving patrons were eager to check out physical books, over 115,000 holds were placed in just one month.

The Library's ability to adapt and persevere has set a fierce example for how our community overcomes adversity. Individuals have flocked to the Library's online resources seeking out learning opportunities. In just the first three months of the pandemic, 64,000 people signed up for an e-card to access e-books, audiobooks, streaming media, and more. Over 1,014,446 items were digitally borrowed in April 2020—a one-month record for the Library.



While in-person schools have been closed, virtual storytimes were viewed 35,500 times between April and June, while 17,786 students logged into *Live Homework Help* between March and June for online tutoring. Almost 40,000 participants have taken part in STEAM programming, including online science and engineering workshops. Even in a time of crisis, the Library inspires learning and provides free access to essential resources.

The Los Angeles Public Library has remained a steady comfort to our communities through this period of change. The free digital resources provided by the Library to millions of Angelenos have proven to be more critical and in-demand than ever. Making a gift to the Library Foundation before December 31, will help keep the Library RESILIENT throughout this pandemic, help families RECOVER with free educational and professional services, and REBUILD the Library of the 21st century with equitable access to free digital resources for everyone.



**Make an impact this year and support the Los Angeles Public Library with a year-end gift!**

**Visit [LFLA.org/Give](https://lfla.org/Give) by December 31 to have your gift MATCHED by Wendy Smith and Barry Meyer up to \$15,000!**

**Call [213.292.6242](tel:213.292.6242) to make your gift over the phone.**

**Mail your gift to:  
Library Foundation of Los Angeles  
630 W 5th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90071**

# The Democracy Project: Teens Leading Change

When the 2020 spring class of The Democracy Project: Teens Leading Change (TLC) first came together to envision change-making initiatives to activate in their communities, they had no way of anticipating just how great the changes would be. Not only did this group of teens learn how to implement civic engagement projects, but they also learned to adapt their plans to address the changing needs of their neighborhoods being impacted by a pandemic.



With support from the Library Foundation and the Los Angeles Public Library, TLC cultivates future leaders across Los Angeles by empowering teens to address social issues in their community. Under the guidance of Young Adult (YA) librarians at their neighborhood libraries, teens work together to increase their awareness and understanding of issues, and then put forth problem-solving ideas into action.

This spring, six projects launched out of six neighborhood branches to take on a range of issues from fighting environmental waste to promoting cross-cultural understanding. Teens at the Palisades Branch Library created the "Neurominded" project to address the rise in mental health issues among adolescents. Those teens created a magazine filled with thought-provoking articles and artwork to de-stigmatize common teen mental health conditions. They also advocated for a California state bill that would allow mental health days to be an excusable school absence by participating in letter-writing campaigns and calling their state representatives. "[Teens Leading Change] taught me to call senators, organize events, and speak up for what I believe in instead of complaining about the problems that plague our society. It made me feel hopeful for the future and

confident in the willpower of my generation," said Lily, a high school senior who took part in the project.

Jessica Levy, the YA Librarian who oversaw the Palisades project, witnessed how the teens pivoted what they were learning about mental health issues to include the new context of the pandemic. "In addition to empowering themselves with information on the topic, I watched the teens learn new skills, like civic engagement and learning how state legislation works," said Levy. "As we transitioned to working over a socially distanced platform, we looked for new ways to give our project meaning and connect with each other. We will be taking these lessons into the fall as the teen council explores more ways to advocate and socially engage on issues that matter to them."



At the Eagle Rock Branch Library, teens were inspired by the upcoming election season. They researched the history of voting and voting rights in the United States and designed the project, "Teens are AWESOME (Advocates Watching Elections Scrutinizing Opinions Motivating Electorate)." They recorded Census PSAs and they also petitioned the Los Angeles Public Library to add a link to voter registration information on the Library's website. "Voting and knowing when and how to vote was already an important aspect of being a citizen in the United States, but it became even more important with the start of the Covid-19 pandemic," said Edmund, Eagle Rock Branch Teen Council President and TLC participant. "Possessing the knowledge of how to vote-by-mail will be crucial for the majority of the country who says they would prefer to vote that way this November. This made me realize how vital voting is

to our system of government and how it can unfortunately be taken away quite easily," he said.

Mika, another participant and Eagle Rock Branch Teen Council Vice President, agreed with how eye-opening their work proved to be during this historic time. "I have always been pretty involved in politics, but this project made me go more in depth about the history of voting. While I can acknowledge my privilege for having easy access to voting, I am also aware of those whose voting rights are being suppressed, and this [TLC] project encourages me to continue researching, advocating, and fighting until everyone's right to vote is protected."

Because of the safer-at-home directive, the Eagle Rock teens adjusted their original plans for an in-person voter registration drive, and changed to a virtual format. The group continued to meet virtually and worked towards creating a virtual voting toolkit. "I am so proud of the Eagle Rock Branch Teens for tackling the topic of voting and voter rights. They were already an empathetic, intelligent, and socially conscious group, but it was heartening to see them research the topic and become passionate about systemic racism and the negative impact that has had on voter rights up to the present day," said Patsy Pinedo Tuck, YA Librarian III at the Eagle Rock Branch.

"Voter suppression is still an issue, 60 years on from the Voting Rights Act... This [is more] important now than ever," said Edmund, who will continue, along with his fellow group members, to stay committed to the issue well beyond the end of their project.

## Teen Art Contest

ARE YOU A LOCAL TEEN ARTIST?

**Theme: Environmental Heroes**  
**Teens making a positive impact in our community**

**DESIGN REQUIREMENTS:**

- Art must be two-dimensional and drawn horizontally in 8.5x11 inch paper.
  - Original artwork only. Work submitted with copyrighted characters or images won't be accepted.
  - Medium: paint, ink, pencils. Bold, brilliant and bright colors are preferred.
  - Entries must include your name, telephone number, email, and school name.
  - The artwork must represent the the Teens Leading Change Theme: Theme: Environmental Heroes: Teens making a positive impact in our community
- Your creative Piece will help to educate and inspire our community**

**Winners will have the opportunity to showcase their artwork at the Granada Hills Library**

**Bring entries to:**  
**Granada Hills Branch**  
**10640 Pettit Ave,**  
**Granada Hills CA 91344**  
**For more information, please contact**  
**Tatiana Ortiz at [tortiz@lapl.org](mailto:tortiz@lapl.org)**  
**or 818) 368-5687**

**Winners will receive a \$100 Gift Card**

**Deadline for entries: April 9th**



# 2020 Literary Awards

## 2020 Literary Awards Celebration Was One for the Books



On September 26, supporters of the Los Angeles Public Library and the Library Foundation of Los Angeles came together virtually for the biennial gala which raises critical funds that provide educational opportunities, enable outlets for creativity, and put books in the hands of those who need them most. As guests near and far raised a glass from home, they heard from Alex Cohen, Halle Berry, George Hamilton, John Lithgow, Sigourney Weaver, and other guests about how the power of libraries continues to transform lives. The pinnacle of the festivities was the presentation of the 2020 Light of Learning Award to Library Foundation supporter Marna Schnabel, as well as the 2020 Literary Award to Poet Laureate Billy Collins. Though the event has passed, we spoke to each of the honorees about their inspiring work on behalf of libraries and literacy.

### Marna Schnabel’s Long-Standing L.A. Legacy

A native Angeleno, Marna Schnabel has been an advocate for many local organizations throughout the city. Serving as Patron Chair for The Council’s Literary Feasts both in 2017 and 2019, she has been involved with the Library Foundation for many years. She participates with the International Medical Corps Leadership Council and serves on the USC Roski School of Fine Arts and Design Board of Councilors, and the USC Iovine and Young Academy Board of Councilors. Schnabel holds degrees in both accounting and architecture from USC. She was one of the first trailblazing women hired by IBM as a systems engineer in Los Angeles. Among her numerous adventures and accomplishments, she lived in Helsinki in the late 1980s during the time that her husband, Rock, served as U.S. Ambassador to Finland; and in Brussels in the early 2000s when her husband served as Ambassador to the E.U. We spoke to Schnabel about her personal legacy as a devoted mother to three children and eight grandchildren, and how her passion for California history fuels her philanthropy.

#### What first led to your work with the Library Foundation and The Council?

**Schnabel:** There are support groups that I’m involved with that have to do with children and education. [I enjoy] being supportive [in these causes]. Having eight grandchildren who all live close to me, I pay attention to those issues.

I remember something Eli Broad said years ago when I went to a lecture of his on philanthropy. He said if you’re investing time and money in something, invest in things that you are interested in and where you may be able to have an impact. This has always stuck with me—and applies to my involvement with The Library Council.

#### How have your connections to Los Angeles inspired your philanthropy?

**Schnabel:** I’ve lived in Los Angeles my whole life. I’m a fifth-generation Californian on both sides of my family. My mother’s maiden name is Van Ness, which is very synonymous with San Francisco, and my father’s name is Del Mar, which relates to Southern California. I’m a very California person, so I’ve always looked for things in the community that are supportive of California history. I’m interested in things that teach children something about where they are and where we come from. I think the Library does [an incredible] job of that because they support [numerous] programs that ground people in the Los Angeles community.

#### How do you see the Los Angeles Public Library as an essential part of our city?

**Schnabel:** From educational programs for kids that enhance what they get at school to teaching English as a second language, there are so many things that the Library does for the community. The fact that it has 72 branches [plus Central Library] means it’s in everybody’s neighborhood.

[In addition], right now when kids are attending school online, the Library becomes a huge resource. Where can these kids turn when they need to write a paper? Where are they going to get their information? [The Library] is such a valuable resource for information and they have kept up with the digital times.



#### What does receiving this award mean to you?

**Schnabel:** I’ve been with The Library Council for a long time and the community support is so great. I feel honored to participate in something that is making an impact in our city. And it’s just so fun to go to meetings and author events. For me, this award is about having a lifetime connection to Los Angeles, [as well as] a lifetime connection to curiosity and to the Library.

# 2020 Literary Awards, cont.

## Billy Collins’ Autobiography Through Libraries



One of the most widely read poets of our time, **Billy Collins** is the bestselling author of 12 collections, plus the recently published *Whale Day: And Other Poems*. Collins served as U.S. Poet Laureate from 2001 to 2003, and as the New York State Poet Laureate from 2004 to 2006. He has received numerous honors and joins the ranks of Seamus Heaney as only the second poet to be awarded the Los Angeles Public Library’s Literary Award. “I write about everyday things because I have the authority to talk about them,” said Collins over the phone from his home in Florida before receiving the award. “I don’t write terribly autobiographical poetry, but it’s a very quiet poetry that has to do with common things around the house like a cup of tea or walking the dog,” Collins explained. Although his poetry doesn’t always align with his autobiography—libraries do. During our conversation, Collins traced defining moments from his literary life with touch points to libraries.

1



“James Baldwin said that when he got his first library card as a young person it was a passport and I thought that was a great metaphor. It meant he could get into all these other countries, and worlds, and other people’s consciousness, and that just provided this amazing access to books. Reading was always a pretty well-respected thing to do in my family and I remember going to a local library when I was a child.”

5



“When I became Poet Laureate I was an employee of the Library of Congress. My office was on the top floor called ‘the attic.’ Out my window you could see the Capitol, and to the right I had a little balcony and there was the Supreme Court. I had what was called an ‘all access’ pass, which meant I could go into the Library of Congress at any time—three or four in the morning if I wanted to. I never did, but I had that library at my disposal, which is an extremely heady place to be.”

2



“I remember [that] once I got into college at Holy Cross in Massachusetts, pretty much every Christmas I would come back to my parents house in New York. There would always be term papers due and so I spent a lot of time in the New York Public Library—in the great reading room. [It was] an amazing space to be in and a humbling space because I was spending a month with real scholars with 10 or 12 books piled up in front of them doing serious work.”

3



“When I was in graduate school, I went to the University of California, Riverside and we took a course in bibliography. Our teacher, William Elton, was a Shakespeare scholar and he would give us a treasure hunt with a list of questions that could not be answered by the university library, which is modest in size compared to the Huntington Library. We’d spend hours running around [Huntington Library] trying to find the first edition of *The Rape of the Lock* and answer all those questions. We would sometimes cheat.”

4



“I started out doing a dissertation on medieval literature. One summer I went to the British Museum in London because my dissertation director was in London at the time. I spent quite a bit of time [in their library] researching the dissertation topic. I remember asking if I could see one of the manuscripts of *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*. I asked if I needed some kind of letter or something. They just went out and got the manuscript out of the case that was on public display, brought it in, and put it out in front of me—I thought I would faint. They gave me a pair of white gloves and that was very thrilling. I’m still a recovering medievalist.”



# Library Foundation of Los Angeles

# The Library Store

## Objets d'art

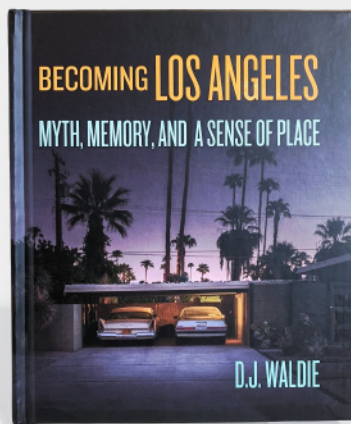
Fill your space with beauty — whether it's artistic food, items that celebrate California, or the next stylish statement for your wall or wardrobe. The digital shop is always open, with a \$5 flat rate for shipping in the continental U.S. Proceeds from all sales support the Los Angeles Public Library, and Library Foundation Members receive discounts on all purchases.

213.228.7550

[shop.lfla.org](http://shop.lfla.org)

[librarystore@lfla.org](mailto:librarystore@lfla.org)

@TheLibraryStore



***Becoming Los Angeles* \$30**



**Bibliophile Gift Box Set \$77**



**100-Piece Moon Puzzle \$19.99**



***California Living and Eating*  
Cookbook \$29.99**



**Life on a String Silk Scarf \$140**



**Art Deco LAPL Print - Rainbow  
Foil Edition \$55**

---

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/support](http://lfla.org/support) 213.292.6242