



LA COUNTY LIBRARY FOUNDATION

October 2023

Hi Library Champion,

Happy Halloween! I'm grateful for Library Champions like you who remind me that treats and hope abound.

Your Library goes beyond hope, working with you to actively make a brighter today and tomorrow – one that welcomes all and encourages exploration, conversation, and civic action.

Thank you for being part of the Library, for championing the right to read – freely and widely.

That's the premise of the public library, and your Library is proudly and publicly proclaiming that with its newly launched [Books Unbanned](#) initiative.

Thanks to support from Library Champions in LA County Library and far beyond, it's off to a great start. Your Library and Foundation are in this for the long haul – ensuring a portal to other worlds and experiences, building understanding and promoting inclusion.

Book bans and challenges disproportionately target a teen audience and books by and about Black, Indigenous, people of color, and LGBTQ+ authors and communities.

So, fittingly, the launch of Books Unbanned coincided with [Banned Books Week](#) (October 1-7), [LGBTQ+ History Month](#), [Teen Read Month](#), and [Filipino History Month](#). These and other celebrations of intellectual freedom, culture, and history don't end with the month.

Check out the great booklists, music, and permanent collections on offer at [your Library](#) – physically and digitally. And read on for some FAQs about Books Unbanned.

Read on, too, about another group celebrated in October: **Friends of the Library**. Like all these vibrant communities, the Friends groups operate all year-long. They're a great way to support your local library and connect with fellow Library Champions. And did I say, they're a lot of fun!

In this month's **My Library Story**, Paul Pinion shares the story of his evolution as an artist. He remembers being a young kid fascinated by the books inside and the boats outside his hometown Lloyd Taber-Marina del Rey Library, and the support he got from his librarian and community.

Jumping back to Halloween and saying hello to fall, treat yourself to some fun in the coming weeks. Here are a few ideas your Library makes possible:

- Enjoy a [Día de los Muertos](#) (Day of the Dead) celebration. This Mexican holiday, celebrated throughout Latin America and the United States, is a joyful time that helps people remember the deceased and celebrate their memory.
- Check out a [California State Parks Pass](#) and head to a beach, desert, mountain, or valley...throughout California!
- AI has its moments, but you can't beat a librarian when it comes to choosing books just for you. [Get your bespoke reading list here](#).

Here's to a fabulous fall season – with great reads and listens, wonderful conversations, and knowing that with your Library, you're building a stronger and brighter community.

Thank you!

Andrea

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P.S. [You make an impact with your gift.](#) Thank you!



Lloyd Taber-Marina del Rey Library, Paul at Art Faire 2022. credits: M Almeida/LA County Library, Paul Pinion

My Library Story: Paul Pinion, the journey to art teacher

"In the mid 1970's my Grandfather and I would ride our bikes along the path throughout our neighborhood and towards the Lloyd Taber-Marina del Rey Library in Marina del Rey where our family friend Joan Horne was the librarian at the time.

As a kid, I would immediately pick a book about traveling, sailing, or any type of adventure I could imagine and then sit by the window to dream of the boats. Lloyd Taber also offered art classes and magic shows which I happily attended with great enthusiasm.

I decided to begin my artist's journey in 2018 after losing the vision in my right eye and teaching myself to paint, which eventually led to the opportunity to teach a series of art classes throughout the Clark County Library District in Las

Vegas beginning in March of 2022. A new series of art classes continues today with the "Painting the Cosmos Space Exploration Summer Challenge."



Eldwayen Ocean View by Paul Pinion

"I became an artist and art teacher simply due to the support, encouragement, and positive experiences that I found at the Lloyd Taber-Marina del Rey Library, the amazing staff and the wealth of information available to the members of the community that can be brought together with art and reading."

What's your Library Story?

[We want to know.](#)

[Read more Library stories here.](#)

**Program Spotlight: *Books Unbanned*
FAQs**



Your Library is standing strong in support of the freedom to read, to explore, and to express oneself. To have free access to a spectrum of information, ideas, and other resources, building understanding about oneself and others.

With support from Library Champions - individuals, foundations, and corporate citizens – your Library Foundation is funding the Library's newest initiative, **Books Unbanned.**

What is Books Unbanned?

In short, LA County Library's Books Unbanned is a public statement and action in support of the freedom to read, explore, and develop understanding and opinions.

In practical terms, this program offers a **Books Unbanned Card** to any teen (13-18 years) throughout California, giving them free access to the Library's ENTIRE digital collection of e-books and e-audiobooks on Libby, by Overdrive. Your librarians provide recommended booklists.

Thanks to your generous support, the Foundation will add to the Library's collection, with e-books and e-audiobooks that cover a range of topics and genres, including books that are banned.

Why is Books Unbanned needed?

Books Unbanned responds to an increasingly coordinated and effective effort to remove books – about a wide range of topics – from library shelves.

Book bans and challenges disproportionately target a teen audience and books by and about Black, Indigenous, people of color, and LGBTQIA+ people. You can see a list of the 13 most challenged books in 2022 [here](#).

Without access to a large range of titles, teens lose the freedom to read what they want, and to discover and learn – about themselves and others – as they journey to adulthood.

But this is California...is Books Unbanned needed here?

Yes! California isn't immune from bans and challenges. Too often, books are challenged or removed from shelves, or never make it into a public library collection.

Already, teens from more than 27 counties throughout the state have signed up for a Books Unbanned Card, and many say their school and local libraries don't have the books they want to read, including banned books.

Limited access to a range of titles, including frequently challenged books, isn't always tied to formal book bans. What about the teen in a rural or underresourced community, perhaps without a library or transportation, or in a community with a library with a small collection?

LA County Library's digital collection provides crucial access – to a range of titles, fiction and non-fiction, the Library's ENTIRE collection of e-books and e-audiobooks. That's more than 150,000 titles.

Will Books Unbanned make a difference?

Again, a big yes! Books Unbanned will make a difference in individuals' lives. And it will ensure that the fundamental right to read, to express oneself, is kept safe and strong.

LA County Library is part of a national movement, started last year by Brooklyn Public Library, to ensure young people have access to any book they want to read.

Your Library brings a lot to the table. Its collection reflects LA County's complex and diverse community, a group equal to nearly one-quarter of California's total population.

With its peer libraries, LA County Library will make a major impact – providing access to a spectrum of ideas, information, and other resources that build a strong democracy.

What other benefits does Books Unbanned offer?

Books Unbanned provides multiple benefits to teens and the community. The Library offers a range of virtual teen-focused programming, in addition to the collection of e-books and e-audiobooks.

Teens have free and full access to the Library's virtual programs. They can explore a range of topics – from author talks to financial how-tos, to STEAM programs, to writing a resume and finding a job, and more.

LA County teens can also connect in person at their local library. They can join in programs, and with a [standard Library Card](#), check out physical materials, as well.

How can I help?

- [Make a donation to LA County Library Foundation](#) to support the freedom to read (hint...a great present for the reader on your list)
- [Sign up for a Books Unbanned Card](#) or let a teen in your life know about this great opportunity
- Help spread the word - **forward this newsletter**. Tell your family, a friend, your co-workers.

Learn more about this bold initiative [here](#). Still got questions? [Email us](#).

Virtual Field Trip: *Friends of the Library*



Looking for connection? Consider joining your local library's [Friends of the Library](#) group. LA County Library has more than 60 individual Friends groups, and each is a separate non-profit run by volunteers.

Friends groups range in size from a handful of members to more than 100. And just as you'd suppose, each Friends group, like its library, is unique.

While your Library Foundation raises funds and builds community connections to support the entire LA County Library system of 86 libraries, Friends of the Library groups support individual libraries.

You may know them for their stellar book (and movies and music) sales, or maybe for awesome annual events or a beautiful quilt in the library or for providing much appreciated snacks for a program.



Friends fund vital needs of their library -- from books to furniture to performers to supplies to programs. They do even more, curating donated books for sale or for a program, staffing Library programs and events, and helping recruit volunteers.

For example, as Library Director of Volunteer Programs Manny Moreno noted with thanks at a recent Friends-wide meeting, Friends play a crucial role in the Library's [Books for Jails](#).

This program, in partnership with Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, provides donations of lightly used books for inmates. Literacy is tied to positive life outcomes at all ages, and this program promotes literacy and learning in addition to strengthening overall mental health and emotional wellness.

Want to learn more? [Click here](#) or check in with your local library.

Where do you want to go next?

[Let us know!](#)

Thank you, Library Champion!
You make a difference.

[Give Today](#)



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