



LA COUNTY LIBRARY FOUNDATION

September 2024

Hi Library Champion,

The dog days of summer are behind us. And the heat keeps on. Your Library met high temperatures with cooling centers, good reads, and in person and online programs.

Now it's tackling heat of a different kind – an astronomical increase in book bans and challenges.

In short, an attack on your freedom to read.

Your Library isn't standing still. With your support, your Library continues to welcome all and provide a range of titles and information. Something for everyone.

Opportunities to explore, discuss, and develop informed opinions. That's what your Library is about, and what's needed by so many, especially now.

That's what you're fueling with your support. Thank you!

Want to do something more to support your Freedom to Read? Your Library has you covered...take your pick:

- **Stop by your favorite library** and share how you celebrate your right to read. Check out the special freedom to read display and share your thoughts on a post-it note. Then, collect an "I Read Banned Books" sticker!

- **Join award-winning author and producer Abdi Nazemian** and Library Director Skye Patrick for a [virtual Heart & Hand Book Talk](#) celebrating the Freedom to Read on October 15th.
- **For teens who love to read...**sign up for the [Books Unbanned Reading Challenge for Teens](#) (and a chance to win a kindle) now through September 30th.
- Teens can also **enjoy lunch, make new friends, and explore Digital Futures and AI Frontiers** with PEN America and your Library at [San Fernando Library on October 19](#) and [CarsonLibrary on October 26](#).
- **Vote! Your voice matters.** There's a lot on November's ballot and a lot to know to make an informed vote. On October 5th, the League of Women Voters of Greater Los Angeles will walk you through the pros and cons of the State ballot measures. [Sign up here](#) for this virtual event.
- **[Make a gift](#), read, and spread the word** about the value of your Library and your freedom - and right - to read.

This month's **My Library Story** celebrates the freedom to read with quotes from teens about why the Library's Books Unbanned digital Card matters.

Read on...we're visiting a gem of your Library with a **Virtual Field Trip** to the [Chicano Resource Center](#) at East Los Angeles Library.

September 15 kicked off a month-long celebration of **Hispanic Heritage Month** and the single largest racial/ethnic group in the U.S. (19.5% of the population).

Have some fun, learn something new -- check out these [intriguing reads, activities, music, and movies](#) your Library has curated for you. It's a perfect fit for the freedom to read - to explore, learn, connect, and develop a greater understanding about yourself and others in our community.

Again, much thanks to you for standing strong with your Library for your right to read!

Wishing you good reads and adventures with your Library,

Andrea

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

My Library Story: Why a Books Unbanned Card matters to me

One year ago, LA County Library joined libraries across the nation - Brooklyn Public Library, Seattle Public Library, San Diego Public Library, and Boston Public Library - in Books Unbanned, a program to ensure teens and young adults can find and read the titles that interest them.

Your Library, supported by generous Library Foundation donors, launched the Books Unbanned digital Library card -- available to *any* teen *anywhere* in California to check out *any* title in the Library's *entire* digital collection.

Success! Last week, we hit a milestone: 10,000 checkouts by more than 1,000 teens located in more than 50 counties throughout California.

We ask each teen who signs up for Books Unbanned Card, "Why?"

Here's what some of them told us, their answers echoed again and again by their peers:

"I volunteer in a library and I was told that if I wasn't gonna discard banned books then I wasn't welcomed."

- Liv, 15 years old

"I have been having difficulty accessing the types of books that interest me in the public library collection in my County, so when I heard about this program I was ecstatic. This will allow me to access lgbtq+ books and other books that will interest me and ones which provide representation for me and members of my community."

- Jeffrey, 18 years old

"I don't have rides to the library to get the books I want / need to read."

- Brooke, 16 years old

"I'm very low-income and don't have the means to purchase audiobooks, and I don't live near any libraries with Libby access. Thank you so much for allowing me to access this library."

- Timothy, 17 years old

"I am disabled. Traveling by car causes me pain. I've been making the trek to my library for years, but I've just learned there may be another way. I have the Libby app, but my library (though I love it) has a scant supply of books."

- Holli, 16 years old

"My school district likes to ban books :("

- SG, 18 years old

"I want to read the books I want to read. Banned books or not. I should be able read what I choose."

-Tammy, 13 years old

"I'm a disabled foster kid and it would be really helpful to have more access to books wherever I end up."

- Nahoa, 15 years old

"My local library does not have many of the books I would like to read. Thank you for making these books available."

- Kyle, 14 years old

"I love reading!"

- Tabia, 15 years old

From the teens who now have Books Unbanned digital Cards, your Library, and your Library Foundation, thank you!

Curious to learn more? [Visit our website.](#)

What's your Library Story?

[We want to know.](#)

[Read more Library stories here.](#)



Image: LA County Library

Teens gathered at A C Bilbrew Library to explore the rise in book bans and challenges that threaten the freedom to read.

Want to learn more? For Media Literacy Week, PEN America and your Library are hosting teen summits at [San Fernando Library on October 19](#) and [Carson Library on October 26](#). Enjoy lunch while you explore emerging opportunities and threats to freedom of expression online, including the rise of artificial intelligence.

Virtual Field Trip: Chicano Resource Center



Chicano Resource Center Librarian Daniel Hernandez wants to build community. He says "this is *your* center" - a place to study, engage with authors, read, discover historical documents, look at art, or simply have fun.

In this [this short video](#), Daniel points out that the Chicano Resource Center, part of East Los Angeles Library, is located in a unique area - an place where many of the biggest moments in the Chicano Movement took place. Like the Chicano Moratorium and the East LA Walkouts.

Established in 1976, the [Chicano Resource Center \(CRC\)](#), is one of LA County Library's four cultural resource gems. This is a collection rich with information for and about the Chicano (Mexican American) community and, increasingly, other Latin American communities for whom LA County is home.

You can explore hard to find materials - English and Spanish language newspapers (on microfilm) that date to the 1800s, skim historical clippings about East Los Angeles, pull from a feast of poetry and fiction titles. Get a book and settle in for a read in the tranquil and art adorned resource center.

The CRC draws scholars, as well as community members, and is the catalyst for many Library stories. Francisco, a senior executive at Home Depot, told me that 30 years ago, he borrowed political posters and books to share with his fellow students at USC. The CRC is a place he continues to treasure.



LA COUNTY LIBRARY

CHICANO

RESOURCE CENTER



LA COUNTY LIBRARY

BLACK

RESOURCE CENTER



LA COUNTY LIBRARY

**AMERICAN
INDIAN**

RESOURCE CENTER



LA COUNTY LIBRARY

**ASIAN
PACIFIC**

RESOURCE CENTER

Like the Library's three other resource centers - Black Resource Center (A C Bilbrew Library), American Indian Resource Center (Huntington Park Library), and Asian Pacific Resource Center (Rosemead Library) - the CRC offers unique programming and resources for its community and the entire system, hosts a teen culture club, and collaborates with the other resource centers on programs and events.

Looking for a good read? Check out these [booklists](#) for adults and teens. From hard hitting memoirs to coming of age stories to historical accounts, you're guaranteed to find something to interest or entertain you.

Why not pair it with some mariachi music? Check out the playlist on [Freegal](#). While you're at it, [consider diving deep with this curated activity list](#) designed to give you a deeper understanding and appreciation for this marvelous musical genre.

Check out what your favorite library is doing to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month - I'm going to learn to make a Guatemalan *barrilete*, a traditional kite that's integral to the country's cultural and religious traditions.

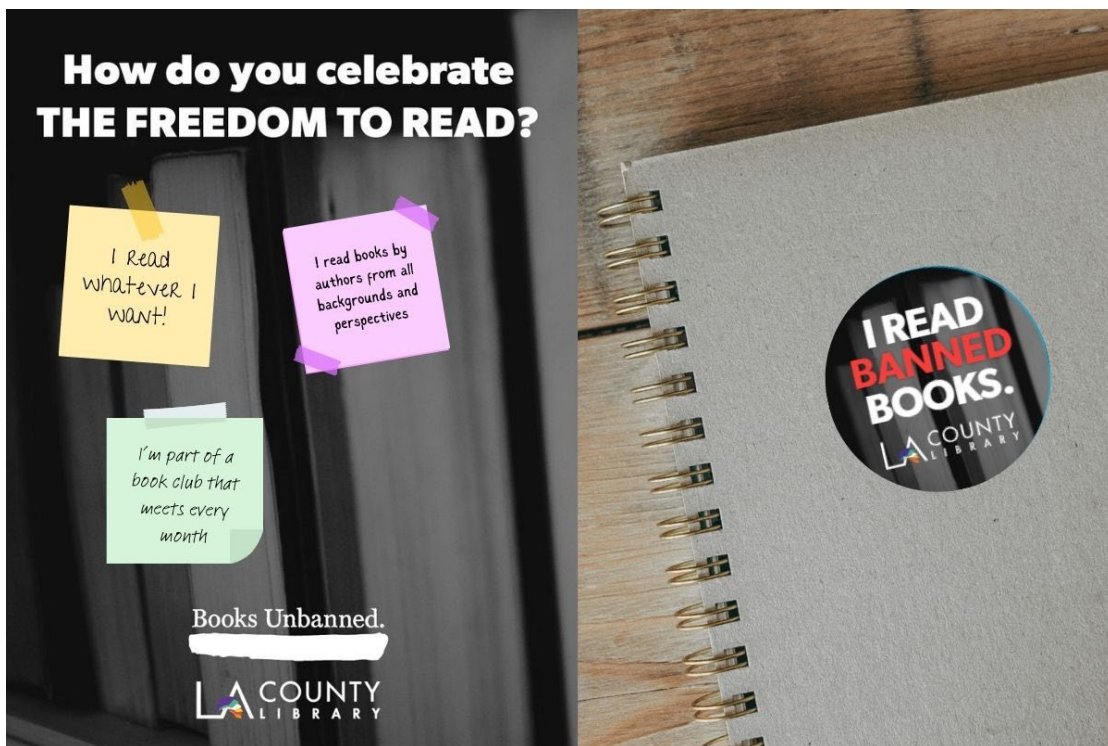
You might also want to head to the Chicano Resource Center:

- Make a traditional cut-out [candlestick holder](#)
- Attend a [musical and visual lecture](#) about Diego Rivera's Vision of the Popol Vuh (the Mayan-Quiché culture's book of creation)
- Join an [author talk with John Y. Fernandez](#) (*Towards Unity & Political Empowerment for US Mexicans, Chicanos, Latinos*)
- [Hear author/TV personality Luis Reyes](#) talk about his book *Viva Hollywood!*

Not quite ready to visit the Chicano Resource Center in person? Just like with any other community library location, find your next great read in the Library's catalog, put a hold on it, and have it delivered to your library of choice. And tune into the CRC's online programs.

Where to next?

[Let us know, send an email.](#)



How to you celebrate your freedom to read?

Write your answer on a post-it on the freedom to read display at your favorite Library. Or [email Andrea](#) at the Foundation.

You, and your actions, matter. Thank you for your generosity and commitment to standing strong for your freedom - and right - to read!

Thank you, Library Champion!

You make a difference.

Give Today



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