



# LA COUNTY LIBRARY FOUNDATION

June 2024

Hi Library Champion,

Summer is here! School's out, adventure beckons, and your Library is a cool place with hot programs.

I hope you're ready to dive right in – with books, ebooks, and audiobooks to explore, Summer Discovery Program, [One Book, One County](#), and oodles of in-person and online activities.

**Thank you, Library Champion, for helping fuel your Library with** your generous support! Read on for a glimpse of what your Library has on offer and some of the ways you can get involved.

I've attended a lot of events this month, and I've been filled with joy and pride talking about your Library and how you and your fellow Library Champions help fuel vital Library programs and resources.

Many of the people I've talked with haven't been to a library in years. They're **amazed and pleased to hear about the range of resources your Library** offers - from welcoming spaces to a dazzling range of physical and electronic materials, to literacy programs for all ages, to vaccine clinics and a free gun-lock distribution program, to tutoring and job support, and so much more.

**In short, your Library creates connection** – for individuals and within communities – to people, places, and vital resources.

Your Library also inspires hope, and promotes understanding, inclusion, and action. Those are driving forces behind [LGBTQ+ Pride](#) and the continuing work for acceptance and equality for all LGBTQ+ persons and communities, as you'll see in this month's *Virtual Field Trip* to West Hollywood Library.

**Ready to travel?** You don't need to go far. If a good read alone isn't enough to quench your thirst for adventure, head to one of [85 LA County community libraries](#), including our "overseas" location on Catalina Island.

From cooling stations on super hot days, to study rooms, to laptop and hotspot loans and free printing, plus State Parks passes for checkout, your Library is a great place to head to this summer.

Check out a library that's new to you, check out some titles, and while you're at it, you might want to check out a local park or eatery.

Not sure where to start? How about Paramount Library? The renovated library will reopen with a grand celebration on Wednesday, July 17 at noon. Library reopenings are a great way to see, and experience, how much a local library means to a community, and how it creates connection. Plus, they're a lot of fun!

To illustrate, and in a bit of a twist from the usual, *My Library Story* features this month's grand reopening celebration at West Covina Library. Read on, and **consider heading to Paramount Library for its reopening festivities.**

As you know well, books can take you to all kinds of places, times, and people. So, if you haven't already signed up, race to get going with [Summer Discovery Program!](#)

**It's not just for kids.** It's for people of ALL ages and it's a mix of reading and completing Library activities. Plus, participants have a chance to win cool prizes – like Target gift cards, Kindles for adult reading winners, and if you complete the program by July 20, you'll have a chance to win a set of four tickets to Raging Waters water park (they're giving away 1,800 tickets to readers of any age).

This year's goal? **To get Library Champions as a group to read a total of 50,000 books!** Audacious? Of course! You wouldn't want anything less from your Library. And you'll want to be part of reaching that goal. Read on!

Something for everyone, connecting individuals and communities – that's what your Library is about, and what you fuel with your support. Thank you!

Wishing you joy and wonderful adventuring with your Library,

Andrea

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

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## My Library Story: *Community Matters*



Images: Monica Almeida/LA County Library

[West Covina Library](#) reopened earlier this month after more than three years. The celebration was standing-room only, and overflowing with delight. The redesigned and bright space features a reconfigured children's section, a teen space, and new seating, laptops to check out, banks for computers, and shelves chock full of great books.

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Walking into the library's grand opening celebration, a woman exclaimed, "I am SO happy to have my library back, I've missed you!"

That was the theme for the day, which featured a welcome back from Supervisor Hilda Solis, Library totes to color, a 3D photo booth, a bubble-making extravaganza, and plenty of time to take in the newly renovated space.



Typical of the love people have for their library, the celebration drew former and current residents, as well as Library staff who had previously worked at West Covina Library and wanted to see how this cherished space had been transformed.

Nancy K and her husband John had traveled across town for the opening. This was Nancy's library growing up, filled with memories of wandering through the stacks in elementary school, and in high school using it as an after-school spot to study and meet up with friends.

**She commented on the radiant light filled space** - laughing, she said, "it used to be so dark in here I couldn't always read the titles on the spines of books." Several people nodded in agreement.

When the formal program ended, parents, grandparents, and youngsters headed to the second floor, eager to see the reconfigured children's area. Library users of all ages flocked to cozy chairs, a bank of new computers, and stacks filled with enticing reads.

**Library staff and community members mingled**, sharing stories and enjoying the new space and furniture. The smiles, joyful conversations, and stream of Library Champions checking out materials spoke eloquently to the power of libraries to connect, meeting individual and community needs.

*You're invited:*

***Paramount Library Open House Celebration on Wed, July 17 at 12 pm.***

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## **What's your Library Story?**

[We want to know.](#)

[Read more Library stories here](#)

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## **Virtual Field Trip: West Hollywood Library, Pride all year-long**



Image: Michael Owen Baker/LA County Library

[West Hollywood Library](#) consistently appears in lists of not-to-be-missed libraries. Little wonder considering this LEED Gold certified library – situated in a city park – is architecturally spectacular and includes a Shepard Fairey mural (*Peace, Freedom, and Creativity*), and a small scale version of Michelangelo's Laurentian Library that serves as the Children's Theater.



That's not to mention changing art exhibits from West Hollywood Arts Council, special collections that include the LGBT Collection and Ron Shipton HIV Information Center, three book clubs, in-person and online events, and a vibrant Friends of the Library group that runs what is arguably "one of the most interesting used bookstores you will ever visit."

West Hollywood Library welcomes you to explore their collection and library and to learn about and [celebrate the LGBTQ+ community](#). The library also hosts a long-running drag storytime, having been one of the first libraries in the country to do so.

Pride doesn't get tucked into one month with your Library. And it doesn't exist solely at West Hollywood Library. LGBTQ+ Pride continues year-round – with activities, book lists, and [suggestions for a DIY virtual film fest](#).

And remember, you don't have to travel to West Hollywood Library to get the title you want – though a trip to the library is definitely worth it! Simply find the material that interests you in the Library catalog, place a hold, and have it delivered to your library of choice.

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**Unbanning Books.** West Hollywood Poet Laureate Jen Cheng invited your Library Foundation to showcase [Books Unbanned](#) at a Grand Performances event titled Poetics of Pride + Legacy.

*Dancers and poets moved throughout the delighted audience, "unbanning" into their hands dozens of books that had been challenged because of their LGBTQ+ content and/or authors.*

*Your Library's Books Unbanned program, with Foundation support, gives any teen anywhere in California access to any ebook or audiobook in the*

Library's entire digital collection.

Our goal is to support the freedom to read, explore, and learn from a range of titles and develop informed opinions.

To date, more than 1,000 13-18 year olds from 253 cities in California have applied for a Books Unbanned card and checked out 5,054 items.

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**Rainbow Parenting and Family Programs** launched this month at five libraries: West Hollywood Library, East Los Angeles Library, Culver City Julian Dixon Library, Angelo M. Iacoboni Library (Lakewood), and Lancaster Library.

These programs – specially designed for families of younger kids, ages birth through 5 years – provide a safe space for LGBTQ+ families in the library. They also create opportunities to build community through meeting other local families, sharing experiences, and inspiring and encouraging one another.

[Check out the Library's events calendar](#) for programs throughout the summer.

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**Where to next?**

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

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# Program Spotlight: One Book, One County - libraries connect



Image: LA County Library

You're invited...join LA County Library Foundation in **the largest book club in LA** – One Book, One County! Showcasing the power of libraries to connect individuals and communities.

**We want you – as a reader, or a sponsor, or both – to be part of this extraordinary community read** presented by your LA County Library and 17 partner public library systems throughout LA County.

**That's 204 unique libraries and communities** – engaging the *entire* LA County community with a shared read this summer, New York Times best seller *LA Weather* by acclaimed local author María Amparo Escandón.

**The read is on** and will conclude with an author talk and family festival at Gloria Molina Grand Park on July 27th.

You're invited to be part of it all – starting with reading the book (available instantly as an ebook or audiobook on Libby, by Overdrive), [participating in](#)



[book talks, painting an LA Weather landscape](#), and with the concluding author talk and family festival in July, celebrating the power of libraries and literacy with 500+ fellow Library Champions from throughout LA County.

**Interested in being a sponsor?**

[Get details here](#) and [email](#) or call (562-949-4189) Andrea Carroll, Executive Director-LA County Library Foundation.

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**Thank you, Library Champion!**

**You make a difference.**

**[Give Today](#)**



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