



LA COUNTY LIBRARY FOUNDATION

January 2024

Hi Library Champion,

Happy New Year! I hope your 2024 is off to a super start.

A shout out to you and your fellow Library Champions - you made 2023 bright and you're making me smile big time as we dive into this new year.

Your love and generosity for your Library makes a difference - for all of us. Thank you.

I've been hearing one word a lot lately - hope. Hope for a better future, hope for a brighter today. That's where your Library excels. A place of hope, welcoming all and offering access to a range of information, ideas, and opportunities.

Opportunities too many to list - from books to computers and parking lot WiFi, to vibrant and beautiful places, to parks passes and arts programs, to tool lending and diaper distribution, to author talks, book clubs, teen groups, and story time, to job help and tutoring, to cultural resource centers, online databases, a 24/7 digital library, and more.

Your Library has it all, or at least a lot. Your Library is a beacon of hope, made brighter and stronger with your support.

Maybe you remember Seattle Seahawks linebacker and Library Champion Uchenna Nwosu? He couldn't have been prouder to talk about the power of the Library when he returned to his hometown to celebrate the reopening of Carson Library. Check it out in this month's *Virtual Field Trip*.

Read on: Library fan and donor Gary M. shares his story of decades of reading and delight in the Library with *My Library Story*.

And getting back to all the goodies on tap at your Library, I've put together a list of 10 cool opportunities. All of them pulled from rave reviews of Library Champions. What else would you add?

Here's to a terrific year ahead - thank you!

Andrea

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



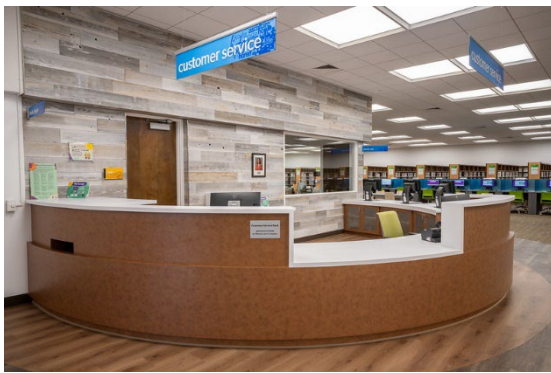
Virtual Field Trip: *Carson Library*

Library Champion and Seattle Seahawks linebacker Uchenna Nwosu was thrilled to help celebrate the reopening of Carson Library in December 2023.

Carson Library and the community mean a lot to Uchenna. He said that as children, he and his two sisters spent many afternoons after school and on the weekends at the Library. Education is key he told the audience, including for athletes. Giving back to his hometown, Uchenna is funding a My Brother's Keeper Peer Advocate based at Carson Library.

You won't be surprised to know that, like your community library, [Carson Library](#) is well loved. So when it reopened last December - after being closed for renovation for four years - people were ecstatic. The wait was worth it.

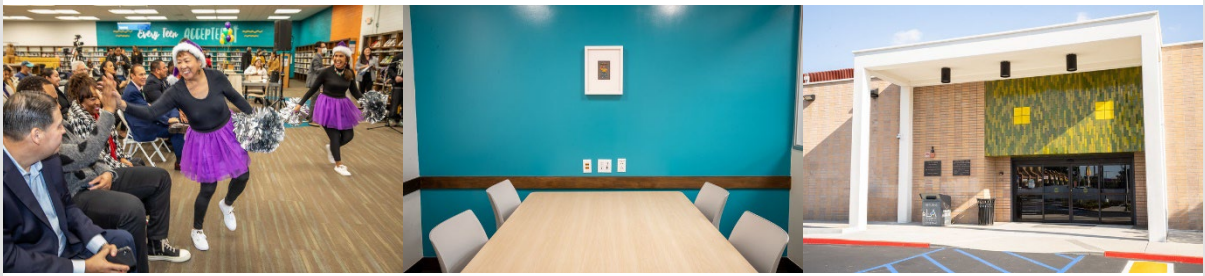
Library staff, Friends of the Carson Library, Library Commissioners, and Foundation staff joined a full house of Library Champions, including Supervisor Holly Mitchell, officials from the City of Carson, the Carson senior cheer squad, Watson Land Company representatives, and Carson native and Seattle Seahawks player Uchenna Nwosu, to celebrate.



Carson Library is special to Trini Jimenez, Watson Land Company's Vice President of Public Affairs (pictured at the library's December reopening with Library Director Skye Patrick). His wife grew up with Carson Library and credits long afternoons at the library with her continuing love of learning. Watson Land Company is also a longtime supporter - their generosity funded the elegant and efficient new Customer Service desk.

Carson Library is one of the largest of LA County Library's 86 locations, occupying more than 33,000 square feet and annually serving 71,000 library users across more than 19 square miles.

The \$2.3 million renovation added furniture and a new customer service desk, as well as two study rooms, a space for teens and one for children, a meeting room that seats 125, and a workforce center. Add to that new computers for children, adults, and early learners. Plus EV charging stations you can use while you enjoy the library.



Images: Monica Almeida/LA County Library

Looking for a great destination? Consider a trip to Carson Library.

And keeping with the theme of printed materials, you might also want to explore another treasure in the City of Carson - the [International Printing Museum](#) (open to the public on Saturdays).

Enjoy! [Let us know](#) where you want to go next.

My Library Story: Gary M.

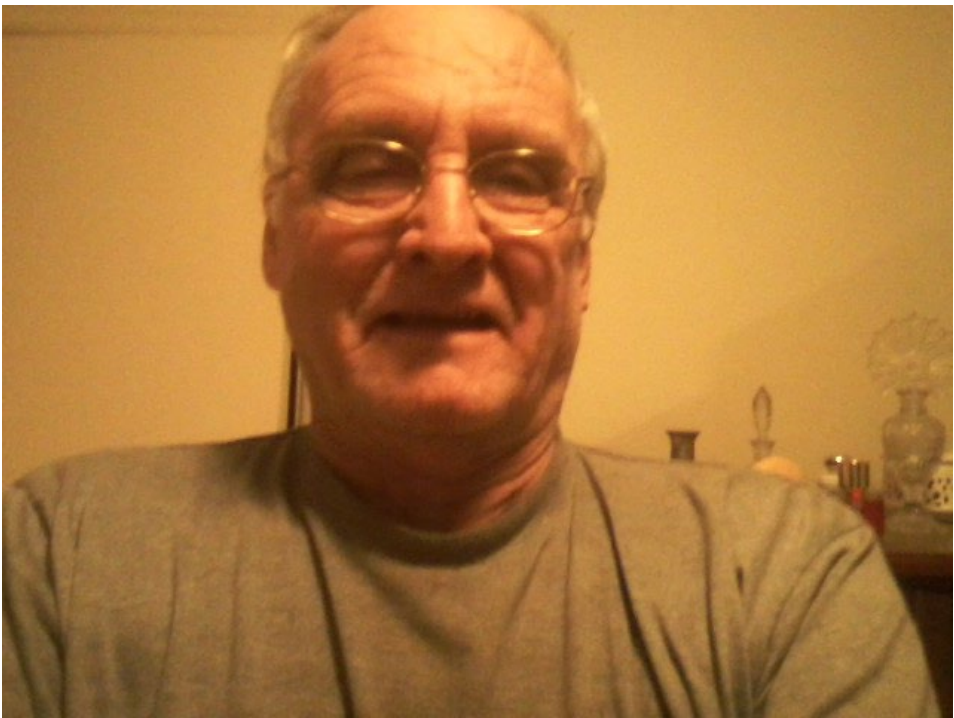


Image: Gary M.

"I have always been an avid reader all my life. I started getting interested in reading when I was about 12 or so and my mother was a member of a book club.

She was subscribing to Zane Grey books, and she got the whole series of his books and I read them all, too, and haven't stopped reading since. And I still have them out in the garage and promised them to my son when I pass on. I am 84 now and he has a while to wait as I have lots of reading to do yet.

I love going to bed with my book and it helps me to go to sleep and it's a nice way to go. I have been a fan of the Library for many, many years and I could always find something to read that I liked. I love fiction books for the most part as it gives me a way to live in another world with my fictional hero's.

I have been donating to the library for a few years now and I wish I had started sooner. It's such a joy to give back what I have freely been given. Well better late than never, huh?

Sincerely
Gary M.

-- I have very few regrets and plan on having a good day."

What's your Library Story?

[We want to know.](#)

[Read more Library stories here.](#)



10 Cool Library offerings

In no special order, we present a few delights on offer at your Library - all free with your LA County Library Card:

- [Libby!](#) Okay, this probably tops the list in terms of the number of times I've been told "*this is a lifeline,*" "*a total joy,*" "*best thing ever.*"
- Want to read a book, but it's not in the Library's collection? Have no fear, you can [Recommend a Title](#). Fill out a form, send it in, and see what happens.
- Know someone who's homebound or in a rural area of LA County who can't get to the Library? They might appreciate [Books by Mail](#), a program that lets them check out up to four books at a time.
- [Book Reviews by Teens](#) - far more influential coming from a peer.
- The [Digital Library](#) is open 24/7...what's not to love if you love ebooks and audiobooks?
- [Books for Jails](#) is a program in partnership with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Donate reading materials to support inmates'

literacy and educational goals, and help their mental health and emotional wellness.

- Stay healthy. Your Library is offering [free vaccinations](#) (flu and the updated 2023-24 COVID-19 vaccine) during February and March at various libraries.
- Attention babies, toddlers, preschoolers...and their adults. Early learning resources abound for you. [Check them out.](#)
- Homework Help and more for [students](#).
- [Events](#) - live and virtual, from book talks to inter-generational discussions, to career exploration, to Storytime, to ESL conversation, and more. There's something for everyone.

What else? [Email us](#) about what else you love.

Thank you, Library Champion!
You make a difference.

[Give Today](#)



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