



Strengthening LA County Library with YOUR support.

August 2020

Dear Library Champion,

Today's a day to celebrate, to take stock of where we are (maybe read up on some suffragist history), and to continue to work for equity.

One hundred years ago today - on August 18, 1920 - **women in the U.S. (at least some of them...many women of color couldn't vote for several more decades) won the right to vote.**

Three-quarters of the nation's states ratified the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. And yes, there's more to that story, too, with one state signing on 64 years later.

It's a fascinating (and continuing) story about the quest for economic, social, racial, and political equality. **Click here for recommended reads for [adults](#), [teens](#), and [children](#).**



Harbor-UCLA Medical Center healthcare workers wear face shields assembled from parts LA County Library staff created with 3D printers from the Library's MakerMobile (MākMō) program (special thanks to Monoprice for donating 13 additional 3D printers!).

It's a story for all people, and a journey that your Library propels - from educating teens and adults about the power of voting, to providing places to cast your vote.

Keep reading to find out about another journey, the career of one of your librarians. **Spoiler alert...**she still keeps her hand in opera, and she's working with Library partner LA Opera to bring their musical stories to you virtually in the coming weeks.

Your Library, and its workers, are essential - from promoting literacy and lifelong learning, to helping on the front lines. Read on to find out about the Library's pop-up *Printing Farm* at Carson Library.

You're essential, too. In these tumultuous times, with schools reopening and kids still at home, I hope you'll turn to your Library - for learning, entertainment, action, and comfort.

Here are some resources (click on the links) to get you started:

- **Students of all ages** - [Homework Help & Tutoring](#)
- [Tools for Job Seekers](#)
- **Parents** - Positive Parenting Tips (on [Well-being Wednesdays](#)) or talk privately about parenting tips and strategies, [one-on-one by phone](#) with a Positive Parenting Program Librarian
- **You, me, all of us** - [read, watch, listen, do](#). Plus, [virtual programming for all ages](#), Monday through Saturday.

Send me an email at acarroll@lacolibraryfoundation.org - it's always great to hear from you.

Your support - as Library customers, advocates, and donors - fuels your Library and its work to provide equity and access to all in LA County.

Thank you!

ANDREA

Andrea Carroll
Executive Director

P.S. The Foundation has a Facebook page. Please help us grow! [Like and follow us on Facebook](#).

My Library Story: A Librarian's Aria
Starring Heather Firchow

Being able to combine my love of books and my love of performance seemed like a win-win!

“ I have loved libraries and have always been a voracious reader.

When I was in high school, needing to earn spending money, my sister suggested that I apply for a job as a Page at the Pasadena Central Library, where I would expand my passion for libraries, books, and reading.

In addition to my passion for books, I have always loved to sing. I began taking vocal lessons when I was 15 and was lucky enough to win a scholarship to study opera at California State University, Northridge. During that time, I continued to work at the Pasadena Central Library.



Image: LA County Library

As I was ending my studies at Northridge and preparing for graduation, I was hired in a full-time capacity and transferred to the

Hastings Branch Library in Pasadena. My Supervising Librarian, Donna Watkins, suggested that my performance background might help to make me a decent storytime facilitator, under her tutelage of course.

Being able to combine my love of books and my love of performance seemed like a win-win!

I was in and I was a natural!

After 35 years working in public libraries all around Southern California, and after facilitating more storytime, school-aged, and teen programs than can be counted, **I now have the absolute honor to serve the people of Los Angeles County as the Library Administrator for Youth Services (YSLA).**

As YSLA, I work with all of our awesome LA County Library staff to create and deliver programs for children, youth, and families.

And although I'm not singing opera at the Met or for LA Opera, I know that **I am able to positively impact our LA County youth and families by providing resources and programs to improve their lives.**

Perhaps, even more so than by singing an aria on the stage of the Dorothy Chandler. "

What's your Library Story?

Email us!

**Virtual Field Trip: *The Printing Farm*
...at Carson Library**

Soon after the pandemic hit, Library staff went into action. The team, headed by Adult & Digital Services Assistant Library Director Meredith Levine, quickly set up a 3D print farm at [Carson Library](#) and partnered with Rancho Los Amigos and its [shieldmakers.org](#) project.

7,922 - number of 3D printed mask extenders

1,547 - number of headbands for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) shields



Images: LA County Library

Staff printed 3D mask extenders and headbands (crucial pieces of PPE shields) for front line workers at hospitals like Harbor-UCLA Medical Center (pictured earlier).

PPE shields also went to LA County Disaster Service Workers, including Library staff - working for Project Roomkey (a program that secures hotel and motel rooms for people experiencing homelessness), providing Sidewalk Service, and distributing meals at *Lunch at the Library* program.



Image: LA County Library

What's happening now? Many of the Library's MākMō librarians are working as contact tracers (an initiative your Library launched among library systems in LA County) and the *printing farm* is on hiatus, with 3D printers housed in each of the Library's regional headquarters.

Staff and 3D printers are ready to spring into action if there's another PPE shortage. They're also ready for STEAM programming and, when libraries physically reopen, ready to work with you in person.

Where do you want to go next?

Let us know!

Your generous donation today supports your LA County Library - building cultural understanding, developing strong readers, supporting job seekers and students, and giving you knowledge, entertainment, and resources you can use.

DONATE NOW

Thank you to our generous donors!

You and your fellow Library Champions

Edison International

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

Monoprice

The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation

F. Shumacher & Co.

CW Stockwell

Watson Land Company

<https://www.lacolibraryfoundation.org/contribute>

Our Contact Information

LA County Library Foundation

7400 Imperial Hwy #201

Downey, CA 90242

562.940.4189

<https://www.lacolibraryfoundation.org>