



LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY

**LIBRARY NEWS**

Peter V. Persic, Public Information Director 213 228-7555  
630 W. Fifth Street, Los Angeles CA 90071 • Fax: 213 228-7569

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Kenneth Brecher Appointed President of Library Foundation of Los Angeles**



Kenneth Brecher, a leader in the arts and culture community, has been named President of the Library Foundation of Los Angeles, the non-profit organization that supports literacy, educational, cultural and technology programs of the Los Angeles Public Library.

Reporting to the Library Foundation Board and working closely with City Librarian Martín Gómez, Brecher will manage all Foundation activities and staff.

“We are excited to have a leader with such passion for libraries and reading,” said Jeff Brown, Chairman of the Library Foundation. “Ken brings to this post a broad intellectual background and extensive experience with innovative non-profits across the United States. This is a challenging time, but it is also a time of great opportunity for the Foundation to build on its success and support one of the world’s great libraries.”

Brecher’s appointment is effective February 8, 2010. He succeeds John Cooke, who served pro bono as interim President during the nationwide search for the position. Cooke is a founding board member and chairman emeritus of the Library Foundation.

“I look forward to working with Ken and building on the extraordinarily successful relationship between the Library and the Foundation,” said City Librarian Martín Gómez. “In these challenging economic times and with library use at record levels, funds raised by the Foundation through its generous supporters are more important than ever before.”

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Brecher joins the Foundation from the Sundance Institute. For the past 13 years, he served as Executive Director and oversaw the Institute's \$26-million annual operating budget and fundraising in addition to all feature film, documentary, theatre and film music programs. He also helped to establish the Sundance Documentary Fund, involving more than 50 countries in one of the largest funds addressing human rights, civil rights and freedom of expression.

Brecher was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University and is an anthropologist by training. His previous positions include President of the William Penn Foundation, Director of the Boston Children's Museum and Associate Artistic Director of the Mark Taper Forum.

The Library Foundation of Los Angeles ([www.lfla.org](http://www.lfla.org)) is a non-profit organization that supports the Los Angeles Public Library programs and technology not funded by the City. Since its creation in 1992, the Foundation has supported the programs and services that reach hundreds of thousands of people each year. The Foundation's fundraising efforts enhance the Library as a center for literary and cultural learning, thereby enriching lives of every Angeleno.

The Los Angeles Public Library, a department of the City of Los Angeles, serves the largest and most diverse population of any library in the nation. Its Central Library, 72 branch libraries, more than six million books, and state-of-the-art technology accessible at [www.lapl.org](http://www.lapl.org), provide everyone with free and easy access to information and the opportunity for life-long learning.

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