



LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY

LIBRARY NEWS

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Los Angeles Public Library to Co-Sponsor *LéaLA*, City's First Spanish-Language Book Fair, April 29 – May 1

Events include cultural seminar at Central Library April 21

Los Angeles Public Library will co-sponsor *LéaLA* ("ReadLA"), Los Angeles city and country's first-ever Spanish-language book fair. The free, three-day literary fair will be held at the Los Angeles Convention Center, Concourse Hall, 1201 South Figueroa St., April 29 through May 1, from 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. Admission is free and open to the public.

A *LéaLA*-sponsored cultural seminar, "Icons, Patterns, Aesthetic and Social Control in the Management of the Collective Imagination," will be held at the Richard J. Riordan Central Library, 630 W. Fifth St., on Thursday, April 21, from 7 – 9 p.m. Jointly organized by *LéaLA* and the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), the seminar will be led by Professor Anne B. Uribe, from the University of Colima. The seminar will be presented in Spanish and is free and open to the public. For more information about the seminar, please call 213-228-7125.

LéaLA is organized by the University of Guadalajara (UdeG) to continue its outreach programs in the arts and culture to the Latino community in Los Angeles and is expected to draw more than 10,000 people each day. More than 80 renowned Latin American authors, such as Isabel Allende, will participate. In addition, Spanish-speaking stage and screen celebrities, such as Mexican singing legend José José, will attend to promote their books; and over 100 publishers will showcase their best Spanish-language fiction and non-fiction. Festivities will include a special Ballet Folklórico performance and much more.

(more)

“Participating in *LéaLA* gives the Los Angeles Public Library an extraordinary opportunity to broaden its knowledge of Latin American authors and tailor Library collections to our growing community of Spanish speakers,” said City Librarian Martín J. Gómez.

Bilingual librarians will present Spanish storytimes for children at the fair. Celebrities will also read to children. Many of *LéaLA*’s activities and programs will be presented simultaneously in English and Spanish.

The ambitious three-day event will offer events beyond the world of books, including concerts at the Nokia Theatre L.A. Live by Grammy-winning artists including Lupillo Rivera, Pedro Fernandez and Molotov. Unlike most other *LéaLA* events, which are free, admission will be charged for the Nokia Theatre concerts.

LéaLA is modeled after UdeG’s popular and prestigious FIL Guadalajara International Book Fair (*FIL*), Latin America’s largest annual cultural event, held in Mexico each November. *FIL*, now in its 25th year, is considered the most important event for the world’s Spanish-language book market, and with more than 600,000 participants, it is the largest book fair in the world after the Frankfurt Book Fair. *LéaLA* has also adopted *FIL*’s custom of naming a geographic area as a guest of honor. This year, *LéaLA* selected the Mexican state of Jalisco.

To learn more about *LéaLA*, please visit <http://www.lea-la.com>.

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