



LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY

LIBRARY NEWS

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**City Librarian Martín Gómez to
Highlight Los Angeles Public Library Achievements
At Guadalajara International Book Fair**

**Los Angeles is First City Ever Selected as Guest of Honor
At Latin America's Largest Cultural Event**

City Librarian Martín Gómez will discuss the Los Angeles Public Library's (LAPL) success in serving the area's diverse population of more than 4 million in a presentation at the International Librarians Colloquium on November 30. The colloquium is affiliated with the 2009 Guadalajara International Book Fair (*Feria Internacional del Libro de Guadalajara or FIL*), Latin America's largest cultural event, held this year from November 28 through December 6 in Jalisco, Mexico.

The Los Angeles Public Library has become a model for other libraries worldwide for its innovative programs, including new children and teen services and the largest library infrastructure project in the nation, which was completed on time and under-budget. LAPL serves the largest and one of the most diverse populations of any library in the United States through its Central Library, 72 branches and Web-based resources.

FIL, now in its 23rd 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. This year, for

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the first time, *FIL* selected a city—Los Angeles—rather than a country or region to serve as guest of honor. In addition to showcasing its library system, Los Angeles' accomplishments in performing, visual and literary arts will be highlighted. Gómez will be part of a delegation from Los Angeles that includes Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Cultural Affairs Department Executive Director Olga Garay, musician Poncho Sanchez and bands Los Lobos and Ozomatli. Literary figures include authors Ray Bradbury, Richard Rodriguez and David Ulin.

“The Feria Internacional del Libro de Guadalajara is not only the preeminent forum for Spanish-language publications in the world, but an opportunity for City Librarian Martín Gómez to share the best practices of the Los Angeles Public Library,” Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa said. “He will share the essence of our creativity and culture of reading with librarians from the Americas at the International Librarians Colloquium.”

According to Gómez, “Participating in the fair gives LAPL an extraordinary opportunity to learn about enhancing library service to its growing community of Spanish speakers, broaden its knowledge of Latin American authors and network with other American librarians who are responsible for Spanish language acquisitions and collection development.”

Gómez, appointed to head LAPL in July 2009, is one of the nation's top library reformers, advocating expanded access to library resources in urban communities. Recently, he served as President of the Urban Libraries Council, which supports research, continuing education and programs that strengthen the public library as an essential part of urban life. As director of the Oakland Public Library in the early 90s, Gómez led a successful effort to merge the African American History and Museum Society into the city's public library system. He went on to serve as executive director of the Brooklyn Public Library from 1995-2002, where he spearheaded a digital revolution in the country's fourth largest library system.

The Los Angeles Public Library serves the largest and most diverse population of any library in the United States through its Central Library, 72 branch libraries, and Web-based services accessed at www.lapl.org.

