

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Visit lapl.beanstack.org and enter the code **ROTUNDA** to sign up for the Central 100 Color-By-Numbers reading challenge. Log 60 minutes of reading or complete three activities in Beanstack to unlock a color-number combination that will help you complete your coloring page. Keep reading and completing activities to unlock all 12 colors. To earn a special commemorative Central 100 pin, complete two of the three color-by-number pages we're releasing in 2026.

THE ROTUNDA

The Rotunda was originally the heart of Central Library. It contained the card catalog, the circulation desk, and reference desk. Anyone looking for information would search the card catalog, identify which items they needed, and then ask librarians to retrieve items from the stacks. Patrons would take their items into one of the Reading Rooms surrounding the Rotunda to continue their research. Aside from being the heart of the library, the Rotunda features a variety of public art to enjoy.

Julian Garnsey and his crew painted the 64-foot domed ceiling, which contains decorative motifs that emphasize blue, green, and lavender. The designs revolve around a sunburst surrounded by stars.

A nine-foot bronze chandelier by **Lee Lawrie** shines directly in the center of the dome. It hangs from a gleaming metal sun, beaming the light of learning directly into the heart of the Library. Lawrie's chandelier features 48 lightbulbs (representing the 48 states in the 1920s) that surround the twelve signs of the zodiac. Within the wheel of the zodiac is a painted glass earth, manufactured by **Judson Studios**. The chandelier hangs from chains decorated with stars and the moon.

Dean Cornwell painted the murals on the walls of the Rotunda. These represent important moments in California history. On the north wall, we see *Cabrillo's Discovery of California*, on the east wall the *Building of the Missions*, on the west wall the *Founding of the Pueblo of Los Angeles*, and on the south wall the *Americanization of California*. Each mural tells a romanticized, if not always historically accurate, version of how Los Angeles came to be Los Angeles.

To learn more about the art and architecture of Central Library, take a free tour with our Los Angeles Public Library docents.



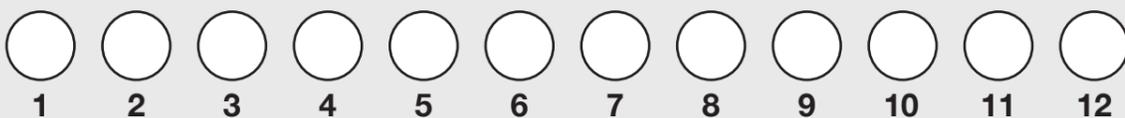
Mural artist Dean Cornwell sits in the Central Library Rotunda with sketches in hand. (InstitutionalCollection)



A view of the pre-1990 Rotunda of Central Library, showing service desks, card catalog cabinets, and murals on the walls and ceilings. (Dick Whittington, Institutional Collection)

COLOR-BY-NUMBERS LEGEND

As you read and complete activities, fill in the handy legend below to remind you of the combinations you've unlocked.



CAN YOU FIND?

Take a look at the Rotunda coloring page, can you find...

- | | | |
|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A snake? | <input type="checkbox"/> A ship with two sails? | <input type="checkbox"/> A train? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> An anchor? | <input type="checkbox"/> Antarctica? | <input type="checkbox"/> A harp? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A man with a top hat? | <input type="checkbox"/> Five sunbursts? | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A man kissing a woman's hand? | <input type="checkbox"/> Two children playing patty cake? | |

Can you find all of these things in real life? Visit the Rotunda on level 2 of Central Library.

DID YOU KNOW?

Architects working on restoring important buildings do their best to leave as much historic character intact as possible while they work.

During the restoration of Central Library, the architects decided to preserve the grooves worn into the marble floor in front of the service desks of the Rotunda. Patrons now and in the future can still see where the feet of generations of Angelenos created wear patterns by standing at the desk to ask questions, retrieve books, and chat with librarians!



Scan the QR code to visit LAPL's Beanstack page and sign up for the Central 100 Color-By-Numbers Reading Challenge!

Don't forget to download the Beanstack app from the App Store or Google Play to make it easier to log your reading and complete activities.

Para leer en español, visita lapl.org/central100/español. Color-by-numbers art by Alexander Vidal.



Visit lapl.org/central100 for a complete list of events and activities celebrating 100 years of Central Library.