

NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION TO DEDICATE ECHO PARK BRANCH LIBRARY

In accordance with [Board Policy](#) 1:312, the Board of Library Commissioners of the Los Angeles Public Library has initiated the process to consider dedicating the Echo Park Branch Library in recognition of Filipino American author, poet, and activist Carlos Bulosan, a pivotal literary figure and a powerful voice for marginalized communities in America. Bulosan's deep ties to Los Angeles, where he lived, worked, organized for labor rights, and spent countless hours at the Los Angeles Public Library developing the voice that shaped his most influential writings, highlight his enduring significance to the city and its Filipino community.

Bulosan was born in 1913 in Pangasinan, Philippines. His early life was defined by hard work and a strong desire for education, despite having limited access to formal schooling.

Dreaming of a better life, he immigrated to the United States at age 17. There, he faced both the harsh realities of racial discrimination and the hardships of service work. Bulosan endured difficult working and living conditions, taking jobs as a farm laborer, dishwasher, and cannery worker. Despite these challenges, he emerged as a prominent labor organizer who advocated for workers' rights and equality with an unwavering commitment to education.

When he was not working, he spent long hours at the Los Angeles Public Library, particularly Central Library. In 1936, Bulosan was diagnosed with tuberculosis and spent two years receiving treatment at Los Angeles County General Hospital. During his recovery, he immersed himself in reading and writing. The Los Angeles Public Library provided the books and periodicals that supported his self-education and shaped his writer's voice.

By the late 1940s, Bulosan had risen from a laborer to an internationally recognized writer and activist. He used his work to highlight the challenges

faced by Filipino American immigrants and explored questions of equality and civil rights.

In 1946, Bulosan published the semi-autobiographical novel *America Is in the Heart*, which remains his best-known work. In it, he recounts his experiences growing up in poverty in the Philippines, followed by accounts of his struggles as an immigrant in the United States during the Great Depression. Between 150,000 and 250,000 Filipinos immigrated to America during this period. Many settled in Los Angeles in search of opportunity. Bulosan's narrative captures the dreams, hardships, and resilience of an entire generation, offering insight into an important chapter of American history. In 1956, he died of bronchopneumonia in Seattle, Washington.

The continuing relevance of his story helped inspire efforts to celebrate and preserve Filipino American experiences. In 2017, the Friends of Echo Park Branch Library established the Carlos Bulosan Book Club. The Echo Park Branch, located in the heart of Historic Filipinotown, houses a Philippine Heritage Collection that includes several hundred books on Filipino American life and culture.

Bulosan's legacy continues to inspire Filipino Americans as part of the broader Asian American and Pacific Islander communities and reflects the Los Angeles Public Library's mission to honor voices that champion knowledge, inclusion, and education. The Echo Park Branch Library proudly serves the Historic Filipinotown community.

The Board of Library Commissioners encourages community members to submit written comments for this proposal to:

Los Angeles Public Library

Board of Library Commissioners

630 W. Fifth St.

Los Angeles, CA 90071

Comments may also be submitted online at www.lapl.org/dedication-echo-park-branch-library or by email to: libcommission@lapl.org, no later than March 10, 2026. All feedback will be included in the public record and considered in finalizing this proposal to honor Carlos Bulosan.

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