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Centennial Festival Celebrates 100 Years at Los Angeles Central Library
Enjoy Free Live Performances, Crafts, Authors, Tours, Time Capsules & More!

Sat., July 11, 2026, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Downtown Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES (July 7, 2026)—The Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL) invites Angelenos to a once-in-a-lifetime Centennial Festival at Central Library on Saturday, July 11, beginning with a ribbon cutting at 10 a.m. and followed by a variety of activities throughout the historic building until to 4:30 p.m., 630 W. Fifth Street, Downtown Los Angeles.

“Our beautiful, iconic Central Library turns 100 years old this week!” said John F. Szabo, City Librarian. “We invite Angelenos to join us Saturday, July 11 for an amazing free Centennial Festival with live performances, behind-the-scenes tours, crafts for children and adults, and a host of exciting presentations and activities. Don't miss out on a party 100 years in the making!”

The [Centennial Festival](#) will offer an incredible array of activities for all ages, throughout Central Library’s multiple meeting spaces and courtyards, as well as in Maguire Gardens, where visitors will find an outdoor stage, more than 20 community booths, and food trucks.

Among the day’s highlights: The Linda Lindas—an L.A. based punk band whose performance at a closed library branch during COVID went viral five years ago—will play in the Mark Taper Auditorium; Susan Orlean, author of *The Library Book*, will join the City Librarian in conversation; and children’s author Dan Santat will discuss his writing and illustrating career. Additional live performances and presentations will include the Bob Baker Marionette Theater; the Grammy Award-winning band Lucy Kalantari & the Jazz Cats; and venerable artist Therman Statum, who designed the Atrium chandeliers.

Other featured activities include Pop-up Poetry with Los Angeles Poet Laureate Brian Sonia-Wallace, an artist meet-and-sign with Gajin Fujita, puppet shows, zine making, workshops, children’s crafts, behind-the-scenes tours, author talks, and more.

“We urge community members to take the opportunity of not only attending the Centennial Festival on Saturday, July 11, but of exploring all that Central Library has to offer in the way of magnificent art and architecture, fascinating exhibits, and incredible resources for all ages,” said Kren Malone, Director of Central Library.

The Library Foundation of Los Angeles will premiere “Luceros y Penumbra: The World’s Largest Pop-Up Book” in Central Library’s Rotunda. At the heart of the exhibition is a newly commissioned, towering work by Los Angeles-based artist and

printmaker Daniel González. An ambitious feat of scale and storytelling, it is designed to surpass the current world record for the largest pop-up book.

On July 7, Angel City Press at Los Angeles Public Library released two new books in conjunction with the centennial—*Los Angeles Central Library POPS: Celebrating a Century of the Light of Learning*, a 3-D adventure through Central Library's history, written by Christina Rice and Illustrated by Mirelle Ortega with paper engineering by Matthew Reinhart; and a children's picture book, *L is for Librarian: The ABCs of Los Angeles*, written by Susan Lendroth and illustrated by Alexander Vidal. The Angel City Press booth will feature book sales and author signings.

Central Library opened its doors in July 1926 to great public acclaim. Over the span of a century, this architectural treasure has grown and changed to meet the evolving needs of the city of Los Angeles and the communities it serves. Multiple [exhibitions](#) on display throughout the building this year, including a pair of time capsules, tell that transformational story.

"Central Library's Centennial Festival not only celebrates 100 years of serving the city of Los Angeles, but also celebrates the community that has supported the Library for more than a century," said Mayra Valadez, President of the Board of Library Commissioners.

The Library has put together a year-long slate of programs and activities for [Central 100](#), including online [podcasts](#), traveling displays at branch libraries, [a color-by-numbers challenge](#), commemorative stamps on vintage catalog cards, [an oral history project](#), a limited-edition library card, and even an old-fashioned melodrama to close out the year.

We invite media who plan to attend the Centennial Festival on Saturday, July 11 to RSVP and/or check in at the Media Table located on the Library's first floor, overlooking the Atrium. The day-of media phone contact for the event is Brenda J. Breaux at 323-859-1393.

Los Angeles Public Library

A recipient of the nation's highest honor for library service—the National Medal from the Institute of Museum and Library Services—the Los Angeles Public Library serves the largest and most diverse urban population of any library in the nation. Its Central Library, 72 branch libraries, collection of more than eight million books, state-of-the-art technology accessible at lapl.org, and thousands of public programs provide everyone with free and easy access to information and the opportunity for lifelong learning.

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