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Little Tokyo Branch Library Honors Newbery Award-Winning Writer Cynthia Kadohata at 33rd Author Recognition Luncheon

Los Angeles, July 16, 2019 – Cynthia Kadohata, Newbery Award-winning author of *A Place to Belong*, will be honored at the 33nd Author Recognition Luncheon on Saturday, September 7, at 12:30 p.m. at the Little Tokyo Branch Library, 203 S. Los Angeles St., James Sherod, the Branch's Senior Librarian announced today.

"This annual event celebrates the outstanding literary achievements of our community," Sherod said. "This year, we honor Kadohata, whose compelling work explores themes of identity and helps preserve the memories of what many Japanese American families experienced in the 1940s."

A Place to Belong tells the story of Hanako, a 12-year-old Japanese American girl, and her family, who are released from a camp after World War II. After giving up their American citizenship, they move back to Hiroshima, only to find a war-torn city devastated by the A-bomb.

Kadohata is a Japanese American children's writer best known for her young adult novel *Kira-Kira*, which won the Newbery Medal in 2005. She won the National Book Award in Young People's Literature in 2013 for *The Thing About Luck*.

The luncheon is sponsored by the Library and the Friends of Little Tokyo Branch Library. Admission to the program is free. Bento lunches will be available for sale at 11:30 a.m. Cost is $12 for Friends members, and $15 for non-members. Free valet parking is available, with library validation, at STOA apartments on Los Angeles Street.

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 6 million books, state-of-the-art technology accessible at www.lapl.org, and more than 25,000 public programs a year provide everyone with free and easy access to information and the opportunity for life-long learning.

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