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S. Mark Taper Foundation Digital Commons Now Open at Central Library

Los Angeles, Oct. 20, 2017 – A new space to work, create and imagine, the S. Mark Taper Foundation Digital Commons, is now open at Central Library, 630 West Fifth St., in downtown Los Angeles. With the completion of the Digital Commons, nearly 1,000 square feet inside the library has been transformed into a modern and comfortable space where patrons can connect with the world.

The Digital Commons provides seating and electronic charging capabilities for 25 patrons. It also features a fully interactive conference table with a monitor that can be used to share and display video and digital presentations. A highlight of the space is a video wall, viewable from every floor of Central Library's Tom Bradley Wing, which displays original content highlighting the library's programs, resources and upcoming events.

Located on Lower Level 3 of the Bradley Wing, the Digital Commons is adjacent to the Computer Center and the library's Tech Kiosk, which allows patrons with a library card to borrow laptops for use inside Central Library.

"With the creation of the S. Mark Taper Foundation Digital Commons, we now have a visually-inspiring, modern space for patrons to connect with the world at Central Library," said Los Angeles City Librarian John F. Szabo. "Central Library is the centerpiece of our extensive library system, and we are always looking for opportunities to allow patrons to gather and collaborate. The Digital Commons is the latest in our ongoing efforts to expand technology offerings at Central Library."

The Digital Commons space was designed by Norman Pfeiffer, who also was the architect for Central Library's 1993 renovation and expansion, which includes the Bradley Wing addition.

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Commenting on the S. Mark Taper Foundation's support, Janice Taper Lazarof, the daughter of S. Mark Taper and the President of the S. Mark Taper Foundation said, "My father said 'I see the library as more than a building with books. It is a hub for community interaction allowing all types of people from a myriad of backgrounds to search for knowledge. Years later, we are able to continue this work."

The S. Mark Taper Foundation Digital Commons is made possible through the generosity of the S. Mark Taper Foundation, as well as The Ahmanson Foundation and the Walter J. and Holly O. Thomson Foundation. Funding for the project was secured through the Library Foundation of Los Angeles.

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 18,000 public programs a year provide everyone with free and easy access to information and the opportunity for life-long learning.

The Library Foundation of Los Angeles provides critical support to the Los Angeles Public Library resulting in free programs, resources and services available to the millions of adults, children and youth of Los Angeles. Through fundraising, advocacy and innovative programs, the Library Foundation strengthens the Los Angeles Public Library and promotes greater awareness of its valuable resources. For more information, please visit lfla.org.

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