FOR RELEASE

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Library to Host a Free Special Program and Discussion with Guest Speaker Father Gregory Boyle to Celebrate New Exhibit, "Radical Kinship: Celebrating 30 Years of Homeboy Industries"

Program and Discussion, Monday, October 22, 6 p.m.
Exhibit on View through January 27, 2019
Central Library, 630 W. Fifth St., Downtown L.A.

The opening of a new exhibit, "Radical Kinship: Celebrating 30 Years of Homeboy Industries," will be commemorated on Monday, October 22, at 6 p.m., with a special program and discussion between Homeboy Industries founder "Father Greg" Boyle and USC History Professor William Deverell, Director of the Huntington-USC Institute on California and the West, at the downtown Central Library, 630 W. Fifth St.

The exhibit, on view through January 27, 2019, in Central Library's First Floor Galleries, commemorates the founding of the Los Angeles based Homeboy Industries, considered the largest gang intervention, rehabilitation and re-entry program in the world. Featuring photos, paintings, digital prints and other unique artworks, the exhibit encapsulates the many facets of Homeboy Industries.

The special program, on Monday, Oct. 22, at 6 p.m., will include Father Greg, Deverell, and Jessica Sanchez and Miguel Lugo, who are changing their lives through their work with Homeboy Industries. Lugo came to Homeboy after serving 18 years in prison and is now head of Homeboy security. After being released on probation, Sanchez is now working with Homeboy to complete her high school diploma, eventually will go to college, and has a focus on regaining custody of her daughters.

Homeboy was founded in the late 1980s by Father Greg, a native Angeleno and Jesuit priest, when he was pastor of the Dolores Mission Church in Boyle Heights. At the time, the church sat amidst two of the largest public housing areas on the West Coast - Aliso Village and Pico Gardens – in the heart of the highest concentration of gang activity in Los Angeles.

Father Greg refers to the years from 1988 to 1998 as the “decade of death,” when gang violence surged, and law enforcement and the criminal justice system dealt with it using suppression and mass incarceration. During that period, Father Greg and parish and community members sought answers, and Homeboy Industries emerged as a solution that established an alternative school, day care program and created legitimate employment.

“Gang violence is about a lethal absence of hope,” said Father Greg. “Gangs are the places kids go when they discover their life to be a misery, and misery loves company…Hope is an essential thing. Nobody has ever met a hopeful kid who joined a gang.”

Expanding over the years, Homeboy’s social enterprises now include Homeboy Silkscreen & Embroidery, Homegirl Café and Catering, Homeboy Apparel and Merchandise, Homeboy Foods, Homeboy Diner in L.A. City Hall, Homeboy Farmers Markets and Homeboy Electronics Recycling.

The "Homeboy Industries” exhibit is free and open to the public. The Central Library is open: Monday – Thursday: 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday: 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. and Sunday: 1 – 5 p.m. The library is closed holidays. For more information, visit www.lapl.org/whats-on/exhibits.

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