



LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY

L I B R A R Y N E W S

Peter V. Persic, Public Information Director 213 228-7555
630 W. Fifth Street, Los Angeles CA 90071 • Fax: 213 228-7569

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: (213) 228-7555

IMAGES AVAILABLE

www.lapl.org/pressroom/politi/

**“Bunker Hill By Leo Politi” Exhibit Celebrating Artist’s
Centennial Birthday on View at Central Library
February 2 – June 14, 2008**

Works by award-winning artist and illustrator Leo Politi, who frequently used Los Angeles images in his art, will be on display in the exhibit “Bunker Hill by Leo Politi” at the Central Library’s First Floor Galleries, 630 W. Fifth St., downtown Los Angeles, from February 2 to June 14, 2008. The exhibit celebrates the centennial of Politi’s birth.

The artwork depicts Politi’s beloved Bunker Hill of old homes as they appeared at the turn of the century. Politi celebrated the neighborhood with his 1964 book “Bunker Hill, Los Angeles,” followed by four more books over the next 25 years. The exhibition features paintings, gouaches and sketches from the Bunker Hill books.

Designed as a residential district at the turn of the 20th century, Bunker Hill remained an exclusive enclave until the end of World War I. After World War II and the opening of the Pasadena Freeway and the construction of other freeways, many people left downtown and the elegant Victorian mansions of Bunker Hill deteriorated into slums.

In 1955, the city began a massive revitalization effort of the neighborhood that cleared buildings and streetcar tunnels from the hill. When the city’s building-height limit increased to 150 feet, some of the city’s tallest skyscrapers were built on Bunker Hill and now feature prominently in downtown’s skyline.

Politi, who died in 1996, is also recognized for his children’s books, two of which were awarded Caldecott Honors: “Pedro, The Angel of Olvera Street” and “Juanita.” In 1950, he won the Caldecott Medal for “Song of the Swallows.”

“Bunker Hill by Leo Politi” is free and open to the public during library hours: Monday - Thursday: 10 a.m. - 8p.m.; Friday & Saturday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Sunday 1 - 5 p.m. The

(more)

library is closed holidays. For more information, call (213) 228-7500 or visit www.lapl.org/events.

This exhibit is sponsored by Farmers Insurance Group and is made possible by The Library Foundation of Los Angeles. To support the Los Angeles Public Library, call (213) 228-7500 or visit www.lfla.org.

The Los Angeles Public Library serves the largest urban population of any library in the country. Its Central Library, 71 branch libraries more than six million books and state-of-the-art technology provide everyone with free and easy access to information and the opportunity of life-long learning.

The Central Library is located in Council District 9, represented by Councilmember Jan Perry.

###