



City Librarian Martín Gómez Accepts Position of Vice Dean of the USC Libraries

February 10, 2012, Los Angeles -- Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa announced today that City Librarian Martín Gómez will leave the Los Angeles Public Library to accept the position of Vice Dean of the University of Southern California (USC) Libraries. For the past three years, Gómez has been responsible for the overall administration of the city's library system, which serves nearly 4 million people -- the largest population of any public library in the United States. The system includes the Central Library, 72 branches, 800 employees and a \$96 million operating budget. Gómez will begin at USC on April 2, 2012.

"Over the past three years, Mr. Gómez's service to the Los Angeles Public Library has been outstanding," said Mayor Villaraigosa. "Working with my office and the City Council, his leadership helped galvanize support for the passage of Measure L last year. His inclusive management style and vision have forged a new direction for the library that will benefit our residents and communities for many years to come. The City of Los Angeles is grateful for his service and I wish him success as the Vice Dean of Libraries at USC."

"It has been a great privilege to serve under Mayor Villaraigosa and lead one of the nation's greatest libraries," said Gómez. "During the past three years, the library faced many challenges, but working together with the Mayor, City Council, Library Commission, staff and public, we have met these challenges. I'm proud that we are now restoring library services and enhancing its programs to meet the needs of all Angelenos today and in the future."

Last year, after deep budget cuts reduced library staff and service hours, Gómez worked with elected officials in crafting Measure L, a ballot measure to amend the City Charter and increase the library's share of dedicated city funds. Voters passed Measure L in March 2011 and the library has begun restoring service hours and programs.

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Gómez previously served as the President and Chief Executive Office of the Urban Libraries Council (ULC), Executive Director of the Friends & Foundation of the San Francisco Public Library and Executive Director of the Brooklyn Public Library, among other positions.

The Los Angeles Public Library serves the largest urban population of any library in the country. Its Central Library, 72 branch libraries, six million books and state-of-the-art technology provide everyone with free and easy access to information and the opportunity for life-long learning. For further information, visit the Library's Web site at www.lapl.org.

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