



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Los Angeles Public Library Among Co-Sponsors of *LéaLA*,
Largest Spanish-Language Book Fair in U.S.,
May 17 – 19, at L.A. Convention Center**

The **Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL)** is among the co-sponsors of ***LéaLA*** (“ReadLA”) 2013, the country’s largest Spanish-language book fair, which will be held May 17 through May 19, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the **Los Angeles Convention Center**, West Hall “A,” 1201 S. Figueroa St. The library has participated in the fair since it began three years ago. The fair is free and open to the public.

LéaLA is organized by the **University of Guadalajara (UdeG)** as an extension of its arts and culture outreach programs to the Los Angeles Latino community. Last year, the festival drew over 68,000 people. More than 150 authors from countries across Latin America will give presentations and sign books this year. Among them will be Mexican Novelists **Beatriz Rivas**, **Paco Ignacio** and **Benito Taibo**, winner of the *Nuevas Letras Prize Daniel Krauze*. A special panel paying homage to **Carlos Fuentes**, the late literary master from Mexico, will feature the writer’s widow **Silvia Lemus** and ***LéaLA*** Director **Marisol Schulz**. There will also be a panel tribute to the late *Banda* singer **Jenni Rivera**. Grammy-winning Chilean Rocker **Beto Cuevas** will discuss his new book, “The Art of Being Beto Cuevas.”

“We are proud to be among the co-sponsors of this exciting book fair created by ***LéaLA***, an organization that shares the library’s dedication to promoting life-long learning, reading and a love of books,” said **John F. Szabo**, City Librarian. “The library presence at the fair provides people with a fantastic opportunity to discover the many services, classes, programs and resources offered in English and Spanish throughout the city in our 73 libraries.”

At the library booth, people can sign up for a free library card, learn about programs and services and enjoy bilingual storytelling presented by librarians.

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Peter Persic, Public Relations & Marketing Director

According to **Pat Cuesta**, **LAPL** Multilingual Collections Manager, “**LéaLA** offers the library a unique opportunity to find and select the newest and best materials offered by publishers throughout Latin America to meet the information needs of Los Angeles' Spanish-speaking community.”

In conjunction with **LéaLA**, Central Library will host “The Making of the Great Bolaño: The Man and the Myth,” on Thursday, May 16 at 7:15 p.m. This free panel discussion, co-sponsored by **LAPL** and the **Library Foundation of Los Angeles'** award-winning **ALOUD** author series, will be moderated by **Héctor Tobar**, *Los Angeles Times* staff writer. Panelists will include: authors **Ben Ehrenreich** and **Monica Maristain**; **Barbara Epler**, president, **New Directions** publishing house, and poet-translator **David Shook**.

LéaLA is modeled after **UdeG's** popular and prestigious **FIL Guadalajara International Book Fair (FIL)**, Latin America's largest annual cultural event, held in Mexico each November. **FIL**, now in its 27th year, is considered the most important event for the world's Spanish-language book market, and with more than 600,000 participants, it is the largest book fair in the world after the Frankfurt Book Fair. Schulz, **LéaLA** Director, was recently named as **FIL** Director, too.

To learn more about **LéaLA**, please visit www.lea-la.com.

Los Angeles Public Library serves the largest and most diverse population of any library in the United States through its 73 libraries, and Web-based services accessed at www.lapl.org and www.lapl.org/en-espanol.

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