



Los Angeles Public Library Recruits Best and Brightest with Nation's First Urban Public Library Residency Program

Bringing together new and experienced librarians, innovative program fosters library leaders and programs for the future

The Los Angeles Public Library and the Library Foundation of Los Angeles have launched the Innovation Leadership Program (ILP), the first residency program in a large urban public library system.

ILP takes a new approach to cultivating the next generation of library leaders by teaming 'residents' who are recent library school graduates with 'fellows' who are mid-career librarians. The program provides them with resources to develop new library programs and the opportunity to gain the skills necessary to lead the Los Angeles Public Library into the twenty-first century.

"This is an exciting, new way for the Los Angeles Public Library to invest in innovative library leaders and services for the future," said City Librarian John F. Szabo. "The ILP program encourages the residents and fellows to imagine services that could define the library of the future, and gives them the resources and freedom they need to create these services. In the process, fellows and residents will gain the unique experience and perspective necessary to become creative and effective library leaders."

The program provides a depth of experience: encouraging fellows to refine their leadership, communication and mentoring skills, while allowing residents to rotate through all operations and experience all aspects of the library's public functions.

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“We are proud to be working in partnership with the Los Angeles Public Library to ensure that libraries continue to be vibrant and essential to twenty-first-century America, providing opportunities and access to everyone seeking books, new technologies, and information,” said Library Foundation President Ken Brecher.

Following a successful pilot in 2012 supported by a major grant from BayTree Fund, the Library Foundation received additional gifts from BayTree Fund, as well as Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, The Annenberg Foundation, and its own Board of Directors to launch and operate the full-scale program this year. The competitive application process attracted candidates from around the world.

The two fellows selected for 2013 are Joyce Cooper, Librarian in the Central Library’s Social Science, Philosophy and Religion Department, and Karen Pickard-Four, Senior Librarian at the Studio City Branch Library. The residents are Mary Abler, a graduate of San Jose State University’s School of Library & Information Science, and Jacqueline Welsh, a graduate of the University of Arizona’s School of Information Resources and Library Science.

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.

The Los Angeles Public Library serves the largest and most diverse population of any library in the nation. Its Central Library, 72 branch libraries, more than six million books, and state-of-the-art technology accessible at www.lapl.org, provide everyone with free and easy access to information and the opportunity for life-long learning.

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