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To Live and Dine in L.A.:
New Project from the Library Foundation of Los Angeles
To Celebrate the Rich – and Untold –
History of Restaurants in Los Angeles
New Book, Exhibition, and Public Programs to Spotlight the
Los Angeles Public Library's Menu Collection in 2015

LOS ANGELES (AUG. 12, 2014) – Next year, the **Library Foundation of Los Angeles** will celebrate the rich – and untold – history of restaurants and food in the City of Angels with “To Live and Dine in L.A.,” an exciting new project spotlighting the **Los Angeles Public Library's** vast menu collection.

The second in a series of collaborations between the Library Foundation and the Los Angeles Public Library to mine the Library's collections, the project will launch with the publication of the first-ever book exploring the long history of restaurants and menus in Los Angeles written and edited by **USC Annenberg Professor Josh Kun** and published by **Angel City Press**. Throughout 2015, the Foundation and Library will further celebrate the food history of L.A. with a major exhibition at Central Library and diverse public programs throughout the city that will all help raise awareness of food politics and food insecurity in contemporary Los Angeles.

“As we demonstrated last year with our sheet music collection, the Los Angeles Public Library is the place to discover the richness of our city's history and with that knowledge, consider its future,” said City Librarian John F. Szabo. “Again this year, we are pleased to work with a true Los Angeles scholar, USC Professor Josh Kun, to reveal even more library treasures to educate, celebrate, and inspire.”

For over a year, Kun and a group of his students, working with librarians from the Central Library, combed the Library's roughly 9,000-piece menu collection,

piecing together an unprecedented history of how, where, and what people ate in Los Angeles over the past century.

The book, “To Live and Dine in L.A.: A Century of Menus from the Collection of the Los Angeles Public Library,” will include a forward by chef **Roy Choi** and contributions from chefs **Jaime Martin Del Campo** and **Ramiro Arvizu** (La Casita Mexicana), **Cynthia Hawkins** (Hawkins House of Burgers), **Susan Feniger** (Border Grill, Mud Hen Tavern), **Nancy Silverton** (Campanile, Mozza), **Sarintip “Jazz” Singsanong** (Jitlada), **Joachim Splichal** (Patina), and **Micah Wexler** (Wexler’s Deli); restaurateur **Bricia Lopez** (Guelaguetza); culinary historian **Charles Perry** (Culinary Historians of Southern California); **George Yu** of the Chinatown Business Improvement District; **Staci Steinberger**, Assistant Curator of Decorative Arts and Design at LACMA; and **Alexa Delwiche** of the Los Angeles Food Policy Council.

The book and exhibition will also feature rare first edition menus, menu templates, and menu printing materials just donated to the Los Angeles Public Library from **The Lord Menu Company**, which designed, printed, and delivered menus daily to L.A. restaurants – including Bob’s Big Boy, The Brown Derby, and Perino’s – for most of the last century.

Following the success of last year’s “Songs in the Key of L.A.” project, “To Live and Dine in L.A.” officially launches the Library Foundation’s book, exhibition, and programming series highlighting the collections of the Los Angeles Public Library, for which Kun will serve as editor and curator.

To explore the menu collection and other special collections, visit lapl.org.

And in the coming weeks, visit toliveanddineLA.com for more information about the “To Live and Dine in L.A.” project.

Spread the word and join the conversation about Los Angeles’ food history online by tagging your tweets and posts with **#ToLiveandDineLA**.

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About the Library Foundation of Los Angeles

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. For more information, please visit lfla.org.

About the Los Angeles Public Library

The Los Angeles Public Library serves the largest population of any library in the country through its Central Library, 72 branch libraries, over six million books and other items, state-of-the-art technology, and its website. These resources and its more than 18,000 public programs provide everyone with free and easy access to information and the opportunity for life-long learning. For more information, visit www.lapl.org.

About the Curator

Josh Kun is a professor in the [Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism](#) at the University of Southern California, where he directs the Popular Music Project of the Norman Lear Center. He is the author or editor of several books, including *Audiotopia: Music, Race and America*, and his writings on music and culture have appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *American Prospect*, *Los Angeles Magazine*, and many other publications. As a curator and consultant, he has worked with The Getty Foundation, the GRAMMY Museum, the Santa Monica Museum of Art, the Autry Museum, the Skirball Cultural Center, and others.