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## ***Fahrenheit 451* is Los Angeles' Big Read Pick**

### **Library Special Events Include Fire Truck Displays, Read-A-Thons, Chili Tastings and More**

**LOS ANGELES** (March 30, 2016) – Celebrating the written word by reading Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*, the classic tale of a world that burns all books, adds an ironic twist to the 2016 Big Read book selection for Los Angeles. Los Angeles Public Library's Central Library and many of its 72 branches will host numerous Big Read events across the city during April and May, including read-a-thons, a talk by Bradbury biographer Sam Weller, fire truck demos, film screenings and more.

An initiative of the National Endowment of the Arts, the Big Read encourages communities to rediscover the joy of reading by selecting one annual work of literature to read citywide and on which to focus cultural events and activities. For 2016, the Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs chose *Fahrenheit 451*, Bradbury's novel about a firefighter who begins to question his role burning books in a dystopian future world.

"The library is delighted to put Ray Bradbury's classic, *Fahrenheit 451*, into the hands of readers across the city for our Big Read events," said John F. Szabo, City Librarian. "Bradbury had a long, close association with our Central Library, writing stories on its public typewriters in years gone by and browsing the shelves for inspiration."

Not only can patrons borrow copies of *Fahrenheit 451*, but libraries will also give a limited number of free copies to participants in reading groups and read-a-thons.

Highlighted library events include the Big Read "Read-In" on April 8 at Memorial Branch, 4625 W. Olympic Blvd. Councilmember David Ryu will officiate at the daylong festivities that include fire trucks, a taste of fiery chili, live storytelling, a read-a-thon by Los Angeles High School Students, a bookmaking craft, and more.

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Peter Persic, Public Relations & Marketing Director

Central Library's Big Read Festival downtown on May 21 will feature a talk by San Weller, a screening of the film *Fahrenheit 451*, and arts and crafts booths.

To learn more about Big Read library events, visit [www.lapl.org/bigread](http://www.lapl.org/bigread).

The Big Read is a program of the National Endowment of the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest.

A 2015 recipient of the nation's highest honor for library service—the National Medal from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the Los Angeles Public Library serves the largest and most diverse urban population of any library in the nation. Its Central Library, 72 branch libraries, collection of more than 6 million books, state-of-the-art technology accessible at [www.lapl.org](http://www.lapl.org), and more than 18,000 public programs a year provide everyone with free and easy access to information and the opportunity for life-long learning.

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