



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Free Lunch for Kids at the Los Angeles Public Library**

*LAPL to offer “Lunch at the Library” to children and teens at 14 locations every weekday this summer from June 12 – August 4*

**Los Angeles, June 9, 2017** – With summer break upon us for students across Los Angeles, the Los Angeles Public Library and the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank are once again teaming up to help feed hungry children and teens. From June 12 until August 4, the library will help serve free meals to children and teens every weekday at 14 locations across the city, including at the iconic Central Library in downtown Los Angeles.

A complete list of participating branches along with times and locations can be found at [lapl.org/summerlunch](http://lapl.org/summerlunch).

This is the fifth year of the library serving summer lunches across Los Angeles. Last year, nearly 16,000 meals were served as part of Lunch at the Library, an increase of more than 3,000 meals from 2015. Since Lunch at the Library began in 2013, the library has served more than 40,000 meals to children and teenagers who otherwise may go without during the summer while expanding from hosting the program at two locations in 2013 to 14 this year.

Along with its summer lunches, libraries will also host more than 1,400 programs across the city this summer. Patrons are also invited to participate in the library’s annual Summer Reading Challenge. Titled “Reading by Design”, the program invites all LAPL patrons to expand their senses of imagination, learning, exploration, and creativity through reading.

Just as summer lunch programs help feed students who otherwise could go hungry without assistance over their summer breaks from school, summer reading programs like the Summer Reading Challenge, and the programs that take place in conjunction with it, help stem learning loss for students over the summer break. Students who read during the summer sharpen their reading skills and often perform better when they return to the classroom in the fall.

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**Peter Persic**, Public Relations & Marketing Director

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Los Angeles Public Library patrons of all ages can sign up for the Summer Reading Challenge now at [lapl.org/summer](http://lapl.org/summer) or by visiting any of the 73 libraries across the city. The Challenge will run from June 12 until August 5, and everyone who completes the challenge will be entered to win a series of exciting prizes that include iPad Pros, Los Angeles Dodgers tickets, gift cards and more.

A 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.

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](http://lfla.org).

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