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L.A. MAYOR AND CITY LIBRARIES LAUNCH EXPANDED CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRANT SUPPORT

*“New Americans Initiative” Makes the Library L.A.’s Most Prominent
Destination for Citizenship and Immigration Resources*
([For images click here](#))

Los Angeles, January 18, 2018—Today Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and City Librarian John F. Szabo joined leaders of major immigration service agencies to launch the “New Americans Initiative,” which makes the Los Angeles Public Library a gateway to citizenship for the area’s more than 700,000 legal permanent residents and L.A.’s most prominent destination for immigration resources.

“Our libraries belong to every Angeleno, and the New Americans Initiative will help bring our immigrant neighbors closer to the dream of citizenship,” said Mayor Garcetti. “We’re expanding access to information, services and resources — so that no one in Los Angeles feels alone in taking an extraordinary step to build a more secure and prosperous future for themselves and their families.”

At the event, Mayor Garcetti introduced Sergio Sanchez, who used the library’s program to become a U.S. citizen.

“I saw a sign for a citizenship class at the library and thought my dream could come true — it is a place I have been visiting since my son was a toddler and I went to the library in my free time,” said Sanchez. He added that his son Bryan is now a chemical engineer. “A librarian helped me enroll in citizenship classes, and I was there every Saturday for three months. I also studied there three times a week

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Peter Persic, Public Relations & Marketing Director

because the library had citizenship books, flashcards, CDs, computers and other things to help me.”

The expanded New Americans Initiative features:

- New Americans Centers in six libraries staffed with immigration trained and Department of Justice (DOJ) certified library staff and featuring multimedia resources as well as workshops and classes led by community partners. Centers are currently open at Central Library and Junipero Serra, Pacoima, and Wilmington branch libraries. Centers at Benjamin Franklin and Pio Pico-Koreatown branches are scheduled to open by summer.
- New Americans Welcome Stations in all 73 libraries with citizenship information and resources.
- English as a Second Language resources, literacy learning and family services, Know Your Rights cards, financial coaching, tenant and worker rights information, workshops on entrepreneurship and career opportunities and others.

City Librarian John F. Szabo stated, “As always, the Los Angeles Public Library is at the forefront of providing equitable access to all Angelenos. We have long been a prominent destination for immigrant integration services, and the launch of the New Americans Initiative is a bold next step in expanding these resources. At the library, we are proud to welcome everyone, and this initiative reaffirms our commitment to supporting New Americans.”

All of the New Americans Initiative’s programs, resources and services are free to the public. Appointments with immigration experts in New Americans Centers must be made online. For appointments and more information about the New Americans Initiative visit lapl.org/newamericans or call (213) 228-7390.

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About Los Angeles Public Library

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 lapl.org, and more than 18,000 public programs a year provide everyone with free and easy access to information and the opportunity for lifelong learning.

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