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Los Angeles Public Library's Memorial Branch Hosts L.A. Poet Laureate Robin Coste Lewis

Poetry reading marks revival of the branch's literary series

Los Angeles (April 17, 2019) – L.A. Poet Laureate Robin Coste Lewis will read from her award-winning book “Voyage of the Sable Venus” at the Memorial Branch of the Los Angeles Public Library, 4625 W. Olympic Blvd., on Saturday, May 4, at 2 p.m.

“Ms. Lewis’ reading marks the revival of a literary series that was so successful at the Memorial Branch years ago,” said Jane Dobija, the Branch’s Senior Librarian. “Her poetry, which captures so vividly both the pain and the power that come out of human suffering, exemplifies the quality of writing we hope to highlight in the series.”

The program will include a book signing with the poet’s books for sale.

A native of Compton, Lewis is a writer-in-residence at the University of Southern California. Her work “Voyage of the Sable Venus” was honored with the 2015 National Book Award, the first poetry debut to do so since 1975, and the first debut to win in poetry by an African American. A finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize, her poems have been published widely in *The New Yorker*, *The Paris Review*, *Best American Poetry* and *Los Angeles Review of Books*, among other publications.

Lewis has an M.F.A. in creative writing from New York University, a Master of Theological Studies from Harvard Divinity School and a Ph.D. in poetry and visual studies from the University of Southern California. She lives in Los Angeles.

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 25,000 public programs a year provide everyone with free and easy access to information and the opportunity for lifelong learning.

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