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Contact: Jimmy Tokeshi at (213) 228-7555

**L.A.'S NEWEST DIGITAL MEDIA MAKERSPACE DEBUTS
WITH MAYOR AND CITY LIBRARIAN OPENING "OCTAVIA LAB"
AT CENTRAL LIBRARY**

*The new space combines a makerspace with multimedia technology
that puts creativity within reach for all residents*

Los Angeles, June 12, 2019—Today Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and City Librarian John F. Szabo opened "Octavia Lab," a new digital media makerspace in the Central Library, located at 630 W. Fifth St, in downtown Los Angeles.

The 2,630-square-foot facility features studios with an audio/video editing bay, a film stage with green screen and a makerspace. Equipment includes 3D printers and scanners, laser and vinyl cutters, sewing and embroidery machines, and audio and video equipment. Staff-led programs will help visitors create podcasts, digitize family memories to preserve for generations to come and experiment with equipment to bring your ideas to life. Octavia Lab resources and programs are free and open to the public by appointment.

"Los Angeles is the creative capital of the world — a city where we encourage every Angeleno to think big, and hand them the tools to activate their imaginations and pursue their dreams," said Mayor Eric Garcetti. "Our libraries are entry points for learning, literacy, and literature, and the Octavia Lab will give our kids and families a place not just to exercise their minds, but to expand their sense of what's possible."

Named after Octavia Estelle Butler (1947-2006), the lab honors the best-selling and acclaimed pioneer of science fiction who broke ground as an award-winning author in the male-dominated genre. She incorporated African and African American history and spirituality, along with the fruits of obsessive research in all areas of science, in her futuristic work. Butler was a lifelong bibliophile who considered libraries sacred spaces. She regularly spent time researching her books in Central Library. Literary Executor to the Octavia E. Butler Estate Merrilee Heifetz was present at the Octavia Lab opening.

"The opening of Octavia Lab establishes the Los Angeles Public Library's newest gateway to state-of-the-art digital media and technology tools for the city's creative community," said Szabo. "The lab keeps Octavia E. Butler's spirit alive and celebrates her creativity, imagination and individuality, providing everyone with the opportunity to dream, explore and create."

Peter Persic, Public Relations & Marketing Director

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Szabo highlighted that the opening of Octavia Lab is particularly special. With the support of Central Library, Butler became a literary superstar. He added the Los Angeles Public Library's strong connection to her grew with her love of libraries and through her significant use of Central Library for nearly two decades. In that time, she was more than a patron. She served as an adult literacy volunteer to tutor individuals in the library's literacy program. She also was a volunteer who joined with library staff and many others to save damaged books immediately after the 1986 Central Library fire and again to move the library to its temporary location.

Octavia Lab is located in Central Library on Lower Level 2 and is open Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays 1-5 p.m., Wednesdays and Thursdays 3:30-7:30 p.m. and closed on Sundays. For more information, visit lapl.org/labs, call (213) 228-7150 or email octavialab@lapl.org.

Octavia Lab is funded by the Los Angeles Public Library with support from The Ahmanson Foundation through the Library Foundation of 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 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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