



For Immediate Release

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**Los Angeles Public Library selected as a
Libraries = Strong Communities national tour location**

**American Library Association President Loida Garcia-Febo
brings the initiative to L.A.
with events May 14 and 15**

LOS ANGELES (May 10, 2019) – The Los Angeles Public Library will join a select group of libraries in supporting American Library Association’s (ALA) “Libraries = Strong Communities,” a national advocacy effort aimed at highlighting the value of academic, public and school libraries. The initiative seeks to increase public awareness of the value of libraries and library staff and inspire grassroots support at local and state levels.

In recognition of the Los Angeles Public Library’s achievements in empowering individuals, delivering innovative community-based services and serving as a place for lifelong learning, ALA President Loida Garcia-Febo will bring the initiative to Los Angeles and participate in a series of events on Tuesday, May 14, and Wednesday, May 15.

On Tuesday, May 14, at 10 a.m. in the City Council Chambers, 200 N. Spring St., Garcia-Febo will join City Librarian John F. Szabo, Councilmember David Ryu and library volunteers as they present a symbolic check for \$4.8 million to City Council. The amount represents the value of the more than 164,000 hours of service provided by the nearly 7,500 library volunteers.

Other highlights of Garcia-Febo’s visit include, on Wednesday, May 15, tours of the Central Library and several branch libraries and a reception with library supporters, community partners and librarians from throughout southern California.

“As a cornerstone of democracy, the Los Angeles Public Library empowers users to make informed decisions by providing free access to information,” said ALA

(more)

Peter Persic, Public Relations & Marketing Director

President Loida Garcia-Febo. “Libraries provide more than just books. They support community engagement and the delivery of new services that connect closely with patrons’ needs. As the Los Angeles Public Library transforms, we should seize every opportunity to showcase its magnificent work.”

“I’m thrilled that the American Library Association and its President, Loida Garcia-Febo, recognize the Los Angeles Public Library’s success in delivering groundbreaking services that meet the needs of our diverse communities,” said City Librarian John F. Szabo. “I look forward to welcoming Loida Garcia-Febo to Los Angeles and partnering with her in the Libraries = Strong Communities initiative to expand awareness of our innovative, high-impact programs.”

Garcia-Febo is touring six libraries across the nation in support of “Libraries = Strong Communities,” calling attention to the significant role libraries of all types play within their communities. The tour will conclude on June 22, 2019 during the ALA Annual Conference & Exhibition in Washington, D.C.

For more information about tour events at the library, please contact pubinfo@lapl.org. For information about *Libraries = Strong Communities*, please visit <http://www.ilovelibraries.org/librariestransform/libraries-strong-communities>

The American Library Association (ALA) is the foremost national organization providing resources to inspire library and information professionals to transform their communities through essential programs and services. For more than 140 years, the ALA has been the trusted voice for academic, public, school, government and special libraries, advocating for the profession and the library’s role in enhancing learning and ensuring access to information for all. For more information, visit ala.org.

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, 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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