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Portrait of Civil Rights Icon John Lewis Installed at Central Library: *Mayor Eric Garcetti & Other Dignitaries Honor Lewis's Legacy*



L to R: Kren Malone, Director of Central Library Services; Marqueece Harris-Dawson, City Councilmember, District 8; Mayor Eric Garcetti; Bich Ngoc Cao, President, Board of Library Commissioners; City Librarian John F. Szabo; Meg DeLoatch, Producer of *Family Reunion*; and Jené D. Brown, Racial Equity Officer and Director of Emerging Technologies and Collections Division for Los Angeles Public Library.

Los Angeles, Feb. 23, 2022 —The Los Angeles Public Library honored the legacy of the late Representative John Lewis with the installation of a portrait of Lewis and a tribute by Mayor Eric Garcetti, City Librarian John F. Szabo and other dignitaries on Friday, Feb. 18 at Central Library in downtown Los Angeles.

(more)

Peter Persic, Public Relations & Marketing Director

The portrait appeared in the Netflix series *Family Reunion*, and was gifted to the Los Angeles Public Library. It depicts Mr. Lewis in the Black Lives Matter Plaza, in Washington, DC, marking one of his last public appearances amid the nationwide protests over the death of George Floyd.

Netflix proposed donating the painting to the Los Angeles Public Library, and the Los Angeles City Council accepted the donation. Because Central Library offers an accessible location for the public to view the portrait and reflect on the legacy of John Lewis, Council Districts 8 and 10 proposed that the painting be gifted to Central Library. It now serves as a notable reminder of his life and work and hangs in Central Library's Social Science, Philosophy & Religion Department.

Other speakers at Friday's event included L.A. City Councilmembers Marqueece Harris-Dawson and Curren D. Price, Jr.; Capri Maddox, Executive Director, Los Angeles Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department; and Meg DeLoatch, Creator and Executive Producer of *Family Reunion*.

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 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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