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**Los Angeles Public Library Hosts Catch the Mic: Paris to Los Angeles**  
*Enjoy the Finale of An International Poetry Marathon*  
**Sat., Sept. 7, 3 p.m., Central Library, Downtown LA**

**LOS ANGELES (September 5, 2024)**— Los Angeles Public Library and Beyond Baroque will hold “Catch the Mic: Paris to Los Angeles” at Central Library on Saturday, Sept. 7, 3 p.m. The finale of an international Poetry Marathon, the event celebrates the cultural handover from the Paris 2024 Olympics to the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics.

Catch the Mic will feature performances by more than 30 Los Angeles poets commissioned to write on the theme “Art + Sports.” A panel of judges selected eight poets from L.A. to travel to Paris and perform on behalf of Los Angeles in the Poetic Games of the Paris 2024 Cultural Olympiad finale. The L.A. poets will join the Library’s event from France via livestream. Additionally, 28 L.A. poets will perform their works in person.

“Los Angeles Public Library is proud to host the international cultural event, “Catch the Mic: Paris to Los Angeles,” said City Librarian John F. Szabo. “We love the spoken word as well as the written word, and welcome the poets participating in this exchange to a long-standing Library tradition of supporting the arts.”

“Catch the Mic: Paris to Los Angeles” is the culmination of a partnership between the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA), Beyond Baroque, the city of Paris, and the Paris University Club.

The program is made possible by a grant from DCAs’ Public Space Activation Fund with support of Community Partners, and additional support provided by the Los Angeles Public Library and the L.A. County Department of Arts and Culture.

### **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 eight million books, state-of-the-art technology accessible at [lapl.org](http://lapl.org) and thousands of public programs provide everyone with free and easy access to information and the opportunity for lifelong learning.

### **Beyond Baroque Literary Arts Foundation**

Founded in 1968, Beyond Baroque is one of the leading nonprofit literary arts centers in the United States and is the oldest literary arts institution in Los Angeles. Located in

Venice, Calif., Beyond Baroque is dedicated to cultivating new writing and expanding public knowledge of poetry, fiction, literature, music, and art, through workshops, readings, performances, events, and exhibitions. Few literary spaces have done more to nurture emerging artists, including U.S. Presidential Inaugural Poet Amanda Gorman.

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