

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Los Angeles Public Library Acquires Publisher Angel City Press

Los Angeles (December 14, 2023)—Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL) has acquired Angel City Press (ACP), the highly regarded local publisher of non-fiction books focused on the art, architecture, history, and personalities of Los Angeles and Southern California.

The acquisition, a donation from ACP co-founders Paddy Calistro and Scott McAuley seamlessly transfers the fully operational book publishing entity to LAPL. In addition to ACP's backstock of titles, the gift includes the press's contracted working relationships with numerous Los Angeles-based authors, as well as their books currently in production. LAPL will maintain ACP's editorial guidelines, and Terri Accomazzo, who has more than a decade of experience at ACP, will serve as Editorial Director.

"Bringing Angel City Press to the library is a natural extension of our mission to amplify the voice of authors, celebrate their work, and preserve their stories," said City Librarian John F. Szabo. "This is a publisher that is renowned for its role in helping writers create books that explore all that is quintessentially Los Angeles. As the new stewards of Angel City Press, we are thrilled to continue and expand that tradition."

ACP and LAPL have a decades-long relationship, which includes ACP publishing books that have been inspired by the library's holdings, including its special collections of sheet music (*Songs in the Key of Los Angeles*), menus (*To Live and Dine in L.A.*) and autographs (*The Autograph Book of L.A.*), as well as a volume about the historic Central Library (*Los Angeles Central Library: A History of Its Art and Architecture*). Dozens of ACP volumes are illustrated with images drawn from the Library's extensive collection of 3.5 million historic photographs.

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Scott McAuley and Paddy Calistro co-founded Angel City Press in 1992 as a publisher of high-quality nonfiction books. The first work, *Hollywood du Jour*, written by Los Angeles journalist Betty Goodwin, was the first illustrated book to document the recipes and histories of legendary Hollywood restaurants. An instant success, *Hollywood du Jour* was featured in book and gift store windows throughout the region, and soon the country. Since then, ACP has engaged more than 100 Southern California authors and produced more than 135 works.

When McAuley and Calistro decided to retire and find a new home for ACP, they approached the Los Angeles Public Library. “As Scott and I enter the next chapter of our lives, after more than 30 years as publishers, we are thrilled that Angel City Press’s next chapter is as part of the Los Angeles Public Library,” said ACP President Calistro. “We are so proud of the vital role Angel City Press plays in telling the story of so many extraordinary people, places and trends that make Los Angeles renowned the world over. This transition helps ensure that our authors and our readers will continue to enjoy ACP’s unique approach. We firmly believe that no single book can ever sufficiently tell the story of Los Angeles. And the Library agrees.”

The Library is committed to continuing the legacy of ACP with new books it publishes, as well as extending the reach of titles locally, nationally and internationally. LAPL is dedicated to not only expanding access through audiobook and e-book formats but also finding new ways to encourage Angelenos to read about their history. The Library will utilize its staff of librarians and their extensive experience and knowledge to benefit ACP.

“This acquisition marks a major turning point in Los Angeles publishing and public history,” said Josh Kun, USC’s Vice Provost for the Arts and author of three ACP books inspired by the Library’s special collections. “The combination of ACP’s commitment to supporting the work of L.A. writers and artists and the Library’s role as a dynamic engine of community knowledge, access and ideas will open up thrilling new possibilities for how the stories of this city will be told.”

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In recent years, ACP has published an average of seven books each year. The diverse subjects range from Google roadside architecture and Chinese representation in the film, to the fate of L.A.'s Chicana/Chicano murals, why Barbie loves L.A., and detailed histories of Wilshire Boulevard with remarkable photography drawn from the LAPL collection. Biographical studies have focused on author Octavia E. Butler, Nobel Laureate Thomas Mann, legendary singer/songwriter Woody Guthrie and his days spent in L.A., and nun-turned-artist Corita Kent, among others.

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 and thousands of public programs provide everyone with free and easy access to information and the opportunity for life-long learning.

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