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## **Los Angeles Public Library Celebrates the City's Rich Heritage of Indigenous Languages at Central Library Festival on November 3**

**LOS ANGELES (October 31, 2024)**—Los Angeles Public Library will recognize and celebrate the diversity of local and worldwide indigenous languages at a special event, *Songs of the Earth – Canciones de la Tierra*, at Central Library on Sunday, November 3. This free festival of music and poetry will showcase the richness of Los Angeles' often overlooked histories, the stories told by indigenous voices of their cultures and their experiences.

Los Angeles is home to more than 200 indigenous languages, and the Library seeks to establish a day dedicated to their celebration. At the festival, the Library will release a new multilingual chapbook of poems written in 15 different languages accompanied by English or Spanish translations.

"The Los Angeles Public Library has served the City's diverse communities, and we are proud to honor the indigenous speakers who call L.A. home," said City Librarian John F. Szabo. "By elevating Indigenous voices at our *Songs of the Earth* event and in a special collection of poetry, we embrace the richness of often overlooked histories of many Angelenos."

The poetry collection, also entitled *Songs of the Earth – Canciones de la Tierra*, is a testament to the resilience, creativity, and depth of Indigenous storytelling, linking experiences that span generations and landscapes. The writers highlight the complexities of contemporary Indigenous life, grappling with themes of displacement, cultural reclamation, and the interplay of tradition and modernity. The anthology not only showcases the artistic talents of its contributors but also serves as an essential act of cultural preservation, as does the Los Angeles Public Library's festival celebrating indigenous languages.

"At their heart, libraries preserve and tell stories," said Library Commissioner Kelly Besser, "and it is important to share stories in their original language whenever possible. Los Angeles Public Library's collection represents more than 500 worldwide languages, each with a story to tell."

*Songs of the Earth – Canciones de la Tierra* will be held at Central Library's Mark Taper Auditorium, 630 W Fifth Street in downtown Los Angeles, from 2-4 p.m. on Sunday, November 3.

[More]

### **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.