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Board of Library Commissioners Solicits Comments on Request to Dedicate the Echo Park Branch Library in Honor of Filipino American Author, Poet and Activist Carlos Bulosan

LOS ANGELES (December 10, 2025)—The Board of Library Commissioners is soliciting public comments on a proposal to dedicate the [Echo Park Branch Library](#) in honor of Filipino American author, poet, and activist Carlos Bulosan, whose influential voice was honed at the Los Angeles Public Library. He remains a pivotal literary figure and a powerful voice for the city's Filipino American and broader Asian American and Pacific Islander community.

The [Board of Library Commissioners](#) encourages written comments for this proposal to be submitted no later than March 10, 2026 via email to: libcommission@lapl.org, online at <https://www.lapl.org/dedication-echo-park-branch-library>, or by mail to the attention of the **Board of Library Commissioners, 630 W. Fifth St., Los Angeles, CA 90071**. All feedback will be included in the public record and considered in finalizing the proposal to honor Carlos Bulosan.

Bulosan, born in 1913 in the Philippines, overcame poverty and limited schooling through a lifelong commitment to education. After immigrating to the United States at 17, he faced harsh working conditions and discrimination. He found refuge at the Los Angeles Public Library's Central Library, where he read extensively and developed his voice as a writer and activist. Through his internationally recognized work advocating for Filipino American immigrants and social justice, Bulosan exemplifies the power of libraries to foster knowledge, opportunity and community.

In 1946, Bulosan published his best-known work, the semi-autobiographical novel *America Is in the Heart*. The book recounts his childhood in the Philippines and his struggles as an immigrant in the United States during the Great Depression. Between 150,000 and 250,000 Filipinos immigrated to America during this period. Many settled in Los Angeles in search of opportunity. Bulosan's narrative captures the dreams, hardships, and resilience of this generation and offers insight into an important chapter of American history. In 1956, he died of bronchopneumonia in Seattle, Washington.

The continuing relevance of his story has inspired efforts to celebrate and preserve Filipino American experiences. In 2017, the Friends of Echo Park Branch Library established the Carlos Bulosan Book Club. The Echo Park Branch, in the heart of Historic Filipinotown, houses a Philippine Heritage Collection that features several hundred books on Filipino American life and culture.

Bulosan's legacy continues to inspire Filipino Americans and the broader Asian American and Pacific Islander community. The Library Board invites the public to honor this heritage by supporting the proposal to dedicate the Echo Park Branch in his name. The branch proudly serves the Historic Filipinotown community, making it a fitting location for this tribute.

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