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**Los Angeles Public Library Kicks Off Central Library's 100-Year Anniversary
See New Exhibitions, a Century-Old Time Capsule, and More on January 29, 2026**

LOS ANGELES (January 20, 2026)—The Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL) invites you to the [Central 100](#) Kick-Off at Central Library on Thursday, January 29 at 11 a.m. in the Mark Taper Auditorium, 630 W. Fifth Street, Los Angeles.

Join the celebration to discover the contents of a recently unearthed 100-year-old time capsule, explore five new exhibitions that tell Central Library's story, see the debut of a new limited edition library card, enjoy a preview of the events and programs planned throughout 2026, and wish the Library a Happy 100th Birthday with a slice of cake at the reception.

"What a privilege it is to celebrate 100 years in this glorious building!" said John F. Szabo, City Librarian. "Central Library has grown and changed through the last century along with the City it serves, but our core values to serve and share the stories of all Angelenos remain unchanged."

Central Library opened its doors in July 1926 to great public acclaim. Over the next 100 years, this architectural treasure has expanded both its collections and the building itself, growing and changing to meet the evolving needs of the city of Los Angeles and the communities it serves. New exhibitions in library galleries tell that transformational story.

Kren Malone, Director of Central Library, said, "We are excited to celebrate Central Library's centenary, and are opening five new exhibitions in galleries throughout the building to share the Library's history and extraordinary offerings today."

A traveling display about historic highlights of Central Library will also circulate among LAPL's 72 branches.

At the kick-off event, The Los Angeles Public Library and the Library Foundation of Los Angeles will unveil Central Library's time capsule, a 100-year-old copper box filled with documents and photos placed in the building's cornerstone during its original construction. Learn about the interesting journey taken a century later to retrieve that box and its contents.

In June, Angel City Press at Los Angeles Public Library will release two new books in conjunction with the centennial—*Los Angeles Central Library POPS: Celebrating a Century of the Light of Learning*, a 3-D adventure through Central Library's history, written by Christina Rice and Illustrated by Mirelle Ortega with paper engineering by Matthew Reinhart; and a children's picture book, *L is for Librarian: The ABCs of Los Angeles Central Library*, written by Susan Lendroth and illustrated by Alexander Vidal.

“Central 100 provides us with the opportunity to invite all Angelenos to share in our celebration through a yearlong slate of special programs and exhibitions at Central Library, along with activities and blogs online to learn more about this city landmark,” said Mayra Valadez, President of the Board of Library Commissioners.

During the presentation on January 29, Szabo and Stacy Lieberman, President and CEO of the Library Foundation of Los Angeles (LFLA), along with other speakers, will give a sneak peek of the exciting year ahead at Central Library and branches throughout the city, as well as an overview of some of the online resources and activities planned for Central 100.

“Central Library has always represented opportunity for our city, providing access to knowledge, creativity, and connection for everyone,” said Lieberman. “As we mark the anniversary of this storied landmark, our Centennial Celebration honors that legacy by looking decisively toward the future. With this initiative we’re helping write the next chapter for LAPL—unlocking an even more powerful tomorrow for our city’s libraries, one as limitless as Los Angeles itself.”

Coinciding with Central 100, [LFLA](#) is launching a fundraising and engagement initiative investing in the future of the Los Angeles Public Library. LFLA’s Centennial Celebration aims to raise \$5 million to expand vital library programs and services and seed innovation in new technologies, spaces, and outreach that redefine the library for the 21st century. Celebration highlights include a year of Centennial-themed public programs, festive fundraising events, and timely, stimulating conversations inspired by Los Angeles history and the Library’s vast archival collections. Among the Celebration’s marquee moments are a Centennial edition of the enormously popular Night at the Library in May, an exhibition opening in July that will feature an attempt to build the World’s Largest Pop-Up Book, and a glittering Centennial gala to close out a landmark year in November.

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](#), and thousands of public programs provide everyone with free and easy access to information and the opportunity for lifelong learning.

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