

# DEAR LIBRARY SUPPORTERS,

I am honored to serve as President of the Long Beach Public Library Foundation for 2020. In my three years as a member of the Library Foundation Board of Directors, I have valued observing first-hand the impact of the programs the Library offers thanks to your generosity.

2019 marked the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Library's Family Learning Center program, which provides thousands of one-on-one homework help and job search support sessions every year. We celebrated the first anniversary and first "graduation ceremony" of the Dive into Reading program which guides parents and guardians as they read 1,000 or more books with their children before kindergarten. The Library launched the LB Reads program, offering individual tutoring sessions for the approximately 1 in 3 Los Angeles County adults who



struggle to read. We have continued to address the digital divide in Long Beach by providing funds for new technology at the Library, including computers, laptops, tablets, and adaptive technology for those with disabilities. The Library's makerspace Studios and Mobile Studio have offered a full calendar of engaging workshops in 3D printing, robotics, coding, graphic design, and more.

Your generosity makes all of this possible. No matter the size of your donation, you made a difference in the lives of children, families, students, job seekers, older people, veterans, and everyone else who depends on the Library.

Our libraries serve on the frontlines of community needs during times of normalcy, giving parents access to early learning tools and activities, providing homework tutoring, assisting people with résumé development and job applications, guiding older visitors and veterans as they connect and find services, and even distributing lunches in the summer when school meals disappear. During times of crisis and even when the libraries are forced to temporarily close their doors, there is a truly impressive array of online services including thousands of eBooks and audiobooks, film and music streaming, one-on-one tutoring, and job search support. One thing we are sure of is when people fall on hard times, they turn to the Library to help get them through. We need your help now more than ever so we may support the resources so many in Long Beach depend on to learn, connect, and succeed.

Happy reading,

Sharon L. Weissman,

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# 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

#### LIBRARY FOUNDATION SUPPORTED PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES

### 20th Anniversary of the Family Learning Center Program

The first Family Learning Center opened on May 15, 1999 at Burnett Library offering one-on-one support to students, parents, and job seekers. The program has grown to include centers in libraries across Long Beach staffed with Learning Guides and online tools, including live online tutoring and job search guidance.





# Dictionary Days Receives Statewide Recognition

The Dictionary Days program was awarded the 2019 California Association of Teachers of English Award of Merit. Over 125,000 dictionary/thesauruses have been given to Long Beach 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students since the program's inception thanks to our partnership with the Earl B. and Loraine H. Miller Foundation.

### LB Reads Adult Literacy Tutoring Launched

In June 2019, the Library launched LB Reads. This new adult literacy tutoring program helps English-speaking adults improve their reading and writing skills. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, approximately 30% of Los Angeles County adults struggle with basic literacy skills.





#### Dive into Reading's First Graduation

The Dive into Reading program celebrated its oneyear anniversary and first graduation ceremony on April 19, 2019. The program provides tools and guidance to parents and guardians as they read 1,000 or more books with their children before kindergarten.

### Largest Khmer Collection in the Country

1,300 new books were added to update the Library's Khmer language collection, the largest collection of its kind in the country. The Library Foundation and the Friends of the Library worked together to fund the book purchasing expedition to Cambodia to make the new additions to the collection possible.



#### Grand Opening of the Billie Jean King Main Library

Over 8,000 people packed the city's newest library on its first day of operation, September 21, 2019. The grand opening celebration included a rousing keynote speech by Billie Jean King and a check presentation by the Library Foundation for more than \$2 million representing donations to date to our New Main Campaign. In its first three months, attendance at the new Main Library showed a 74% increase over that at the old Main Library.







# BY THE NUMBERS

Approximately 860,000 Library patrons served

46,745 youth attended Library programs

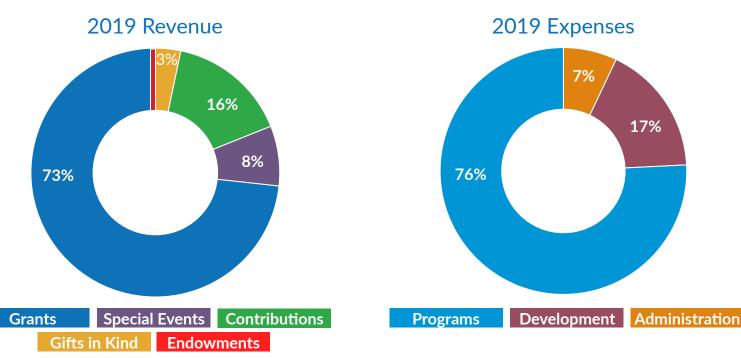
16,495 Family Learning Center one-on-one tutoring sessions

10,155 individuals served by the makerspace Studios and Mobile Studio

5,600 dictionaries given to LBUSD 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students

Impact numbers reflect the Library's 2019 fiscal year ending in September. Main Library closed in January 2019 in preparation for the Billie Jean King Main Library's opening on September 21. During this time, the 11 neighborhood branch libraries were open to the public.

The Library Foundation contributed \$1,576,435 directly to educational programs and Library enhancements in 2019, a 52% increase over what was contributed in 2018.



In 2019, the Library Foundation's strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency earned it a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, America's largest independent charity evaluator, and the Platinum Seal of Transparency from GuideStar, the world's largest source of nonprofit information. These are the highest rankings awarded by these organizations.





# **TOOLS TO SUCCEED**

# HOW HAS THE **FAMILY LEARNING CENTER** MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE

YOUR COMMENTS MAY BE USED FOR PUBLIC DISPLAY ANONYMOUS OR NAME

The learning lab has completely helped me. It has made it possible that I can go to colvege. I use the learning labs computers to write assignments, print out assignments, and the gulet environment to study. I don't always have money to drive all the way to the school to print or use the computers. I do not own a printer at home or have use of a computer that has a good have use of a computer that has a good typing program. Thank you for the Services here.



In the fall of 2019, the Library Foundation received this anonymous thank you note from a future college student who regularly visits the Michelle Obama Neighborhood Library Family Learning Center (FLC). The FLC Learning Guides provide one-on-one support to students of all grades and help high school students as they research colleges and complete their applications.

The Library's resources are crucial for students, parents, job seekers, and many in Long Beach who do not have a computer with an Internet connection at home. According to a January 2019 report by the Long Beach Technology and Innovation Commission, 28% of Long Beach households lack a broadband Internet connection. While about 8% of this population relies on their smartphones to connect to the Internet, nearly 16% of households lack Internet access altogether. According to the Commission's digital inclusion survey results, 45% of those who do not have Internet at home said they rely on the Library's computers.

The FLC program goes a step further. In addition to providing computers for use, Learning Guides provide individualized support to those who need help using a computer. When it opened, the Billie Jean King Main Library FLC began offering classes on computer use basics.

The Library Foundation has supported the FLC program in providing these much-needed services and tools to succeed for more than 20 years. Thank you for making this possible!





THANK YOU! The Long Beach Public Library Foundation couldn't have accomplished all of this without your generous support. Thank you for all you do.

Representing gifts from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019

### SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR LEADING VISIONARY SUPPORTERS

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Linda Bresnan Matthew M. Peters Frances and Carl Pfetzing in memory of Ann Herzaz

Marilyn and Edward Philipp **Gretchen Phillips** Susan Phillips

Kristiana Placencio Michael Plantenga

Susan Platt Stacy Plummer Connie Polite

Luigi and Vanessa Porco

Kathy Porter Sonia C. Preiser Joseph Prevratil Judi Price in honor of Billie Jean King Karen Prochnow Donna Queza Linda and Allan Rahn

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Catherine Margaret Raneri

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Georgeanne "Dodie" Reddington

Adela Redzic Alana Reese Roger T. Reid Marie Reidy Joelle Renzi Harry E. Rice

The Rinks Lakewood Ice Diane Riska Taylor Jessica Rivera in honor of Alex Saenzpardo

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Eric Rosewitz Frances Rozner Elaine J. Russell Kim Alane Rutty Anne Ryder

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Kathy Shasha Pamela Shaw **SILB Readers** Mary Anne Silvestri Skirball Cultural Center **Bob Slawson** 

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Kori Smith Leslie Smith

Robert Snair, Eric Snair family, Isik family, and Thomas family

in memory of

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Teresa Snyder

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Shelly H. Stratton in memory of Louise Stratton Dale C. Strok Susan Strum **Beverly Stunden** Avinash Suntosh James Graton and Judith L. Swaaley Barbara Swain Carl M. Switzky Regina Szal

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Carrie Tai

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and Seksa Chamroeun Thao Ton and Jason Burcombe

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Trader Joe's - Bellflower Boulevard Robert and Johanna Tramazzo Elizabeth and Frederick Trapp

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Photos: 2019 Carnegie49 brunch featuring bestselling author Lisa See at the home of Sean Reilly and Jeff Toelsin.









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