# LONG BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

## 2021 NEWSLETTER



# CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF SUPPORTING LONG BEACH LIBRARIES



*Founding Board member, Margaret Durnin, (left) with former Director of Library Services Cordelia Howard at one of the first Library Foundation events.*

2021 marks two important anniversaries — the Long Beach Public Library Foundation's 25th and the Long Beach Public Library's 125th year of service to the Long Beach community!

On January 1, 1896, the Long Beach Library Association with books donated by the Women's Christian Temperance Union opened the City's first library in a small structure on Ocean Boulevard. The Library has grown into a premier center of learning with 12 locations, an extensive collection of print and online materials, hundreds of public use computers, dedicated spaces for children, Family Learning Centers providing one-on-one support for students and job seekers, makerspace Studios, a 3D printing center, the Center for Adaptive Technology for those with disabilities, and much more.

The Library Foundation is proud to provide funding for these and many other Library resources for the past 25 years. In 1996, our founders — Margaret Durnin, Bob Kilpatrick, Helena Belisle, and Robert Campbell — formed the Library Foundation to fund enhancements to the Long Beach Public Library. 25 years later, our organization has raised more than $25 million to support Library enhancements. This would not have been possible without your support! Your donations, whatever size they may be, make a difference in the lives of the many who depend on our city's 12 public libraries. Thanks to your generosity, we help the Library bridge economic, educational, digital, and cultural divides in Long Beach.

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# ALL 2021 RECURRING DONATIONS WILL BE MATCHED!

Thanks to an anonymous donor, all recurring donations established during the Library Foundation's 25th anniversary year in 2021 will be matched up to a total of $6,000. Even $5 per month — an impact of $10 per month this year — plays an important role in helping us support library programs like one-on-one homework help and job search support, early literacy programs in English and Spanish, scholarships for adults earning their high school diploma, and more. You may choose to make your recurring donation of any size weekly, monthly, or quarterly.

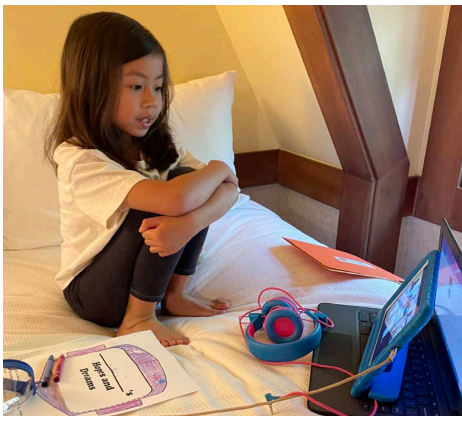
**Set up your recurring donation with the attached envelope or start your recurring donation online at**

**LBPLFOUNDATION.ORG/MATCH**




# YOUR GIFTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR YOUNG READERS

Your tax-deductible gifts help the Library Foundation support literacy programs that bring smiles to the faces of young readers. Earlier this year, the Library hosted the virtual Young Readers Club program for first grade students. The program involved teen volunteers and library staff meeting virtually with young readers for literacy activities and games centered around developing social and emotional skills. Children participating in the program were given kits with books they could keep along with activity sheets and school supplies. The Library Foundation was proud to provide funding for this program with the support of donors like you!



# READING PROGRAMS FOR MIGRANT CHILDREN

The Library Foundation and the Library partnered with Léeme un Libro (Read Me a Book), an online, volunteer-led, Spanish/English initiative aimed at overcoming language and literacy barriers that exist for the migrant children sheltered at the Long Beach HHS (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services) site this summer. As Léeme un Libro's fiscal sponsor, the Library Foundation made it possible for more than 1,200 new Spanish-language books and 2,700 craft packs to be delivered to the Long Beach HHS site. The Library created weekly educational activities and volunteer students from LBUSD dual-immersion schools recorded storytimes in Spanish for the children. This was all possible thanks to a generous grant from the Long Beach Community Foundation's Migrant Children's Support Fund.




*Library Foundation Board President M. Lissette Flores (center) with Léeme un Libro's founders, Andrea Hershfield (left) and Terri Spencer.*

# DIVE INTO READING & SCHOOL

Promoting literacy in Long Beach starts with raising the next generation of dedicated readers who are prepared to succeed in school and beyond. The Library Foundation is proud to fund many of the Library's early literacy programs. In 2020 and 2021, donations to the Library Foundation helped provide resources to grow and adapt these programs to meet educational needs and reach families even when the libraries were closed during the pandemic. The following are a few of those programs.

## DIVE INTO READING



In 2018, the Library launched the "Dive into Reading" program for families with children ages zero to five. This program includes events, resources, and guidance for parents and guardians as they read 1,000 books to their children before kindergarten to help them develop a love of reading. In 2020 and 2021, this program continued virtually to support families as they met their reading goals. The Library also partnered with Un Mundo de Amigos Preschool, which serves low-income families, to register all students for Dive into Reading and donate books to their classroom libraries.

## CIRCLE OF STORIES · CÍRCULO DE CUENTOS




Earlier this year, the Library began a new early literacy program available in both English and Spanish. The program involved families with children ages two to five in a series of educational virtual workshops. Each family received a backpack of supplies for literacy activities. The program was fully booked within one day showing the great need for early literacy programs in Long Beach.

## DIVE INTO SCHOOL! · ¡SUMÉRGETE EN LA ESCUELA!



Dive into Reading inspired the Library's new kindergarten readiness program, Dive into School, for children ages four to five. The program includes virtual and in-person workshops designed to teach age-appropriate language, literacy, math, and social-emotional skills that children should acquire before entering kindergarten. Pre-K students earn badges to compete for prizes as families progress through the program. Workshops are available in both English and Spanish.

## SUMMER READING COLORS YOUR WORLD



The Library's annual Summer Reading Program returned this year to help students combat the "summer slide." This year's virtual program provided resources in English and Spanish including weekly storytimes, workshops, craft kits, and prizes to keep readers of all ages engaged during the summer months.

# CELEBRATING OUR HERITAGE

The Library has a long history of promoting inclusivity and diversity by highlighting the many cultures represented in Long Beach. This year, the Library Foundation supported several programs, events, and resources that highlight the histories and stories of people of color.

## HONORING BLACK HISTORY & STORIES




In February, the Library Foundation partnered with Senator Lena A. Gonzalez to host a free virtual celebration for Black History Month featuring Elise Bryant. Bryant is a Long Beach author and special education teacher who discussed her debut young adult novel, *Happily Ever Afters*, recently published by HarperCollins as a lead title and recommended by the American Library Association, *Publisher's Weekly*, and *The Root*. *Happily Ever Afters* is, "about a Black girl learning to take up space and love herself," said Bryant. The event was attended and viewed by many Long Beach teens and was made possible by Farmers & Merchants Bank. All donations to the event supported the Library Foundation's Fund for Race, Equity, and Justice Resources which supports library resources that highlight the words and works of African Americans.

## ASIAN AMERICAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER VOICES

Education is a powerful tool in fighting disinformation, discrimination, and xenophobia. In March, the Library Foundation announced its Fund for Asian American & Pacific Islander Voices to promote the voices, narratives, and histories of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. The fund will also support resources in Khmer, Tagalog, Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, Japanese, and other languages spoken in Long Beach homes. Libraries are often called the great equalizer. That is why it is important to strengthen its multilingual resources.



## VIDA LATINA CELEBRATES LATINO HERITAGE

In September and October, the Library hosted its third annual Vida Latina celebration in honor of Latino Heritage Month. Vida Latina is a series of in-person and virtual family events including bilingual storytimes for young children, Spanish short story readings for teens and adults, and a Community Lotería Night for all ages. Thanks to a generous contribution from Farmers & Merchants Bank, the Library Foundation funded this year's festivities that highlight the rich cultures of Latinos in Long Beach.

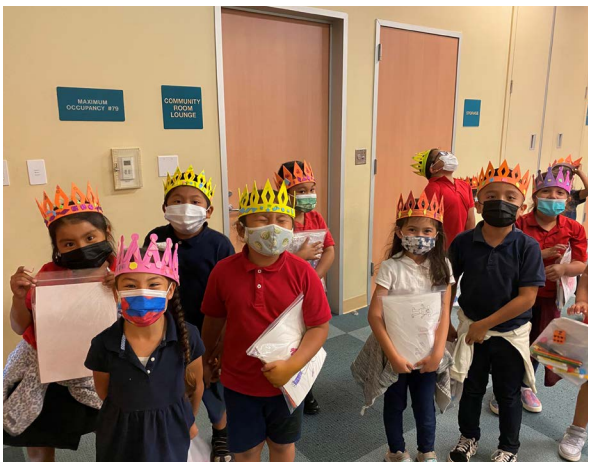



*Photo: Children showing off their projects at a Vida Latina Bibliodías workshop at the Mark Twain Neighborhood Library.*

# TECH TO-GO BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE




In April, the Library launched its new Tech To-Go lending program to help local families bridge the digital divide. One in four Long Beach households lacks a reliable internet connection and a 2019 report by the City's Technology and Innovation Commission showed that 45% of those residents rely on the Library to connect to the Internet. The Library Foundation is proud to be a part of the community benefit partnership with Verizon that launched this program. As part of the program, Verizon provided the Library with 100 MiFi devices (portable internet hotspots) with features geared toward students and $50,000 to the Library Foundation to purchase Chromebooks. The program has expanded thanks to a grant from the California State Library that has enabled the Library to purchase additional devices.

Library cardholders 18 years and older can schedule requests for devices through the Library. Visit your local library branch or the Library's website at **longbeach.gov/library** to learn more.

# MAKERSPACE STUDIO LAUNCHES CURIOCITY STEAM & BEYOND!



In October, the Library launched the CurioCity program to introduce youth ages 12 and up to a wide array of creative interests within the fields of science, technology, engineering, arts, and math. Robotics, interactive electronics, and modular synthesizers are just some of the subjects that students are learning through biweekly workshops. The program involves experts in these fields to help lead the workshops and inspire young minds.

This program is the latest from the Library's makerspace Studio which provides expert instruction in 3D modeling, graphic design, coding, and more. The Library Foundation is proud to provide funding for the makerspace Studio thanks to generous support from the Rudolph J. and Daphne A. Munzer Foundation, Marathon Petroleum Corporation, and many donors across Long Beach who support the Library's innovative programs.

# WAYS TO SUPPORT

The 12 Long Beach Public Libraries and their free resources are available to everyone. Although the Library's day-to-day operations are funded by the City's budget, many of the opportunities to grow, learn, create, and connect are made possible thanks to donations to the Long Beach Public Library Foundation.

Your tax-deductible gift will make a difference in the lives of the families, students, job-seekers, veterans, older individuals, and those with disabilities who depend on the Library. **Through the Library, you will empower residents to improve their own lives and build a more successful Long Beach.**

## DONATE ONLINE OR MAIL YOUR GIFT

Donating online is a quick and easy way to make your gift and get immediate confirmation that it was received.

**LBPLfoundation.org/donate**

Mail your check or money order payable to the "Long Beach Public Library Foundation" to us at 200 W. Broadway, Long Beach, CA 90802.

## START A FUNDRAISER

Ask friends to donate to celebrate your birthday, a holiday, or just show your support for libraries by starting a fundraiser on Facebook for the Library Foundation. You can set a goal and invite your friends to make tax-deductible gifts. Facebook transfers all money raised directly to the Library Foundation without charging any fees. Visit the link below to get started.

**facebook.com/fund/LBPLfoundation**

## EMPLOYER MATCHING GIFTS

Your employer may match your donation to the Library Foundation, doubling your impact. Check with your HR department to learn whether your company has a policy of matching employee charitable gifts.

## WRITE YOUR LEGACY

Do books play a special role in your life? Do you have fond memories of going to the library? Then the library is already part of your legacy. Make it official with a planned gift to the Long Beach Public Library Foundation that will ensure generations of children and families will build a lifelong love of reading.

In addition to supporting the Library, gifts may benefit donors by easing tax burdens. We appreciate:

- ◊ Gifts of Cash
- ◊ Bequests
- ◊ Gifts of Stock
- ◊ IRA Charitable Rollovers
- ◊ Charitable Remainder Trusts
- ◊ Charitable Lead Trusts

If you have any questions about including the Library Foundation in your charitable giving plans or estate planning, please contact Erica Bradley, Director of Development.
**Erica@LBPLfoundation.org**
**(562) 628-2441 x2**



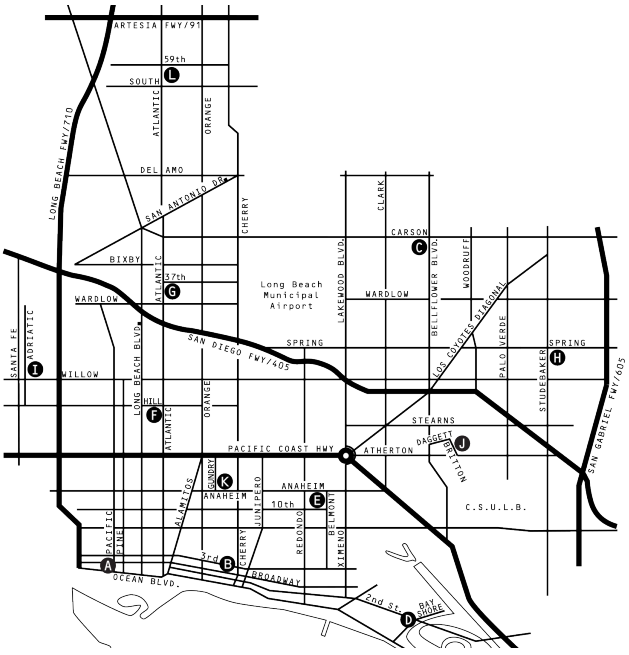
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Visit **longbeach.gov/library** to learn about the many resources available online and at the 12 Long Beach public libraries.

- A Billie Jean King Main Library
- B Alamitos Branch
- C Bach Branch
- D Bay Shore Branch
- E Brewitt Branch
- F Burnett Branch
- G Dana Branch
- H El Dorado Branch
- I Harte Branch
- J Los Altos Branch
- K Mark Twain Branch
- L Michelle Obama Branch




# YOUR GIFT TRANSFORMS LIVES

Scan the code with your phone camera or visit **LBPLfoundation.org/donate** to donate any amount online and support the many in Long Beach who depend on the public libraries.