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JOHN F. SZABO  
CITY LIBRARIAN

April 21, 2016

The Honorable Paul Krekorian, Chair  
City Council Budget and Finance Committee  
c/o Richard Williams, Office of the City Clerk  
Room 395, City Hall  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

BY: EGC CITY CLERK  
p/s DEPUTY  
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CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

**MAYOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-17**

Dear Councilmember Krekorian:

The Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL) provides social, cultural and educational services unmatched by any other public institution in the City.

The Mayor's proposed FY 2016-17 budget provides the resources necessary to enhance and expand these services to improve the lives of all Angelenos. LAPL is proud of its accomplishments in citizenship and immigrant integration, reducing health disparities, helping adults receive high school diplomas through the Career Online High School program and providing summer lunches to children in low-income communities.

The Library's other major initiatives assist veterans, provide online courses to build L.A.'s workforce, partner with other agencies to assist the homeless, and take a leadership role in increasing sustainability. The proposed budget builds on the proud tradition of meeting the needs of our city's large and diverse population, engaging Angelenos in life-long learning, and providing resources and assistance to help them succeed in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

The Mayor's proposed FY 2016-17 budget also supports the Library's strategic plan and enables us to enhance the following services:

**Homeless Engagement**

The budget includes a significant investment to enhance Library services and programs for the most vulnerable residents of the city by funding: vehicles to provide mobile services, programs and technology (e.g., laptops, iPads, free Wi-Fi, printers, etc.) at homeless shelters and low-income housing centers; computers for community partners working in libraries to help the homeless enter the Coordinated Entry System and

provide referral services; and, additional educational and job-related resources for people in shelters, encampments and low-income housing.

The Library also supports many other homeless engagement services including: providing space and access for the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA)'s Emergency Response Teams in libraries to assess and refer the homeless to support and housing services; and hosting The Source, a multi-agency effort to provide assistance to the homeless.

As homelessness can be an issue for veterans, the Library provides Veterans Resource Centers in 11 libraries with trained volunteers who connect veterans to health, education, employment, housing and other benefits. This service is also provided in partnership with LAHSA.

### **Sustainability Initiatives**

The Library is a leader in conservation and sustainability with five LEED-certified branches, solar panels at seven branches and major energy-saving upgrades at the Central Library. All 73 libraries are summer cooling centers and, year-round, offer the city's most comprehensive information about water and energy conservation and sustainability.

For FY 2016-17, the Library proposes a series of sustainability initiatives to further improve water and energy conservation. This includes installing: drought-tolerant landscaping and drip irrigation at eight libraries; urban gardens at branch libraries; electric vehicle charging stations at libraries; and lighting and heating upgrades to decrease gas and electricity use at the Central Library. In support of the Mayor's goal of a 20 percent reduction in water use by 2017, the Library has already achieved an 18 percent reduction.

### **Citizenship and Immigrant Integration Enhancement**

As a recognized national leader in citizenship and immigrant integration services, the Library has hosted hundreds of programs and citizenship classes attended by thousands of Angelenos. This budget includes funds to increase citizenship/immigrant integration assistance at key libraries and provide comprehensive materials to help facilitate the naturalization process.

### **Student Success Library Card**

The Library is committed to working with students, parents and schools to help all students succeed in school. In partnership with the Los Angeles Unified School District, a new Library program will provide "Student Success" library cards to all incoming first-grade and sixth-grade students. The library card provides access to free online one-on-one tutoring, homework help and a variety of resources to help students succeed in school including the Library's collection of more than 6 million books and 271,634 e-media titles.

### **Library Collections**

The proposed budget will provide additional print and e-media materials to all 73 libraries. This will increase the per capita library materials expenditures from \$2.89 per capita to \$3.30 per capita, which is still well below the national average of \$6.49 per capita. The Library is committed to incrementally increasing this budget to better meet demands for materials.

### **Digital Access and E-content**

As the public need for digital access and e-content increases, it is crucial that resources are available to support the Library information technology infrastructure. This package will increase the Library's bandwidth and bring unprecedented speed to all 73 libraries, improving access to the Library's vast e-media collection, online homework help and other digital services, and connecting the libraries to the CENIC backbone, which provides high-speed connectivity to educational institutions statewide. The budget package also allows the Library to utilize virtualization applications to upgrade 2,300 public computers systemwide; provide additional laptops and iPads for people to use in the library; and provide the technology needed for patrons to print documents and images from their mobile devices. Funds and additional staffing will enhance the Library's web presence and fund a re-design of the Library's website for a more seamless user experience.

### **Library Service Enhancement**

Demands for service continue to increase. Therefore, the budget adds public service and support staff to improve library service in communities across the city. Staff is also being added to oversee the digitization efforts of the Library's heavily used historic collections. This package also adds funding for equipment and alterations to enhance the physical environment of various libraries and, therefore, the experience of users.

With the support and assistance of the Mayor and City Council, the Library has successfully kept the promises made to the people of the City of Los Angeles when the voters passed Measure L in 2011. These promises include fully restoring service hours at all libraries and fully reimbursing the City for all related costs. Thirty-six percent of the Library's budget is allocated to reimburse the General Fund for related costs. The additional resources and positions in the proposed FY 2016-17 budget will allow the Library to continue growing and innovating to better meet the needs of all Angelenos.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact me or the Library's Assistant General Manager, Kris Morita, at (213) 228-7515.

Sincerely,



John F. Szabo  
City Librarian

cc: Honorable City Councilmembers  
Board of Library Commissioners  
Ana Guerrero, Chief of Staff, Office of Mayor Garcetti  
Barbara Romero, Deputy Mayor for City Services  
Matthew Szabo, Deputy Mayor, Budget and Innovation  
Matthew Crawford, Budget Director, Mayor's Office  
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