



DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
City of Los Angeles

PRESENTS THE 2016

BIG READ

PROGRAM IN LOS ANGELES





DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
City of Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES LITERACY AND POETRY MONTH

Celebrating DCA's 2016 *Big Read Program in LA*

The **Big Read** is an initiative of the **National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)** designed to restore reading to the center of American culture. The NEA presents The Big Read in partnership with **Arts Midwest**. The Big Read brings together partners across the country to encourage reading for pleasure and enlightenment.

The **Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA)** marks its eighth year of programming The Big Read with the 2016 selection of Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*, a novel about firefighter Guy Montag who lives in a lonely, isolated society where books have been outlawed by the government.

DCA's 2016 *Big Read Program in LA* consists of a series of **free** activities through June 2016, and is presented by DCA in partnership with community and cultural organizations that have deep ties to Angelenos of every age. The public is welcome to participate in the 2016 *Big Read Program in LA* and to enjoy the many activities offered by DCA and our community partners, including a civic ceremony at the historic Los Angeles City Hall, reading groups, discussion panels, art exhibitions, live performances, film screenings, festivals, music and dance, food lectures and tastings, visits to cultural landmarks, and walking tours.

Unfold this brochure to reveal a poem written by **Los Angeles Poet Laureate, Luis Rodriguez**, and for a list of *Big Read Program in LA* Partners.

CITY HALL CIVIC CEREMONY CELEBRATING LITERACY AND POETRY IN LOS ANGELES

PROCLAMATION CEREMONY

When: March 30, 2016
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Site: **City Hall Council Chamber**
Los Angeles City Hall
200 North Main Street
Los Angeles 90012

Cost: Free and open to the public

Info: Join the Los Angeles City Council at a **Proclamation Ceremony** celebrating Literacy and Poetry in the city of Los Angeles at the launch of DCA's *Big Read Program in LA* in 2016. This civic event highlights education, the arts, and community engagement. Our featured book is *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury. Students, schools, cultural organizations, and community leaders will be recognized by the City Council and other elected officials at the historic City Hall.

The event will be capped off with a special reading by **Los Angeles Poet Laureate, Luis Rodriguez**, and pop-up artmaking by **Self Help Graphics and Art's Barrio Mobile Art Studio**. Guests will receive a unique screen-printed poster inspired by The Big Read, using stencil cutting techniques with artists Dewey Tafoya and Martha Carrillo.

For more information, visit: **BigReadLA.org**, or call 213.202.5567.



You can find us at:

Facebook.com/culturela,
on Twitter @culture_la, and
everywhere #BigReadLA



**OPENING RECEPTION AND SPECIAL
READING BY LOS ANGELES
POET LAUREATE, LUIS RODRIGUEZ**

May 13, 2016 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

**Gallery at the Mexican Cultural Institute of
Los Angeles**

Los Angeles Poet Laureate, Luis Rodriguez,
will introduce a new Tia Chucha Press anthology,
*Coiled Serpent: Poets Arising from the Cultural
Quakes & Shifts of Los Angeles.*

Coiled Serpent is a highly anticipated anthology
featuring well-known Los Angeles poets.

For more information, please call 213.485.0221,
or e-mail: mm_mcila@earthlink.net.

2016 BIG READ PROGRAM IN LA

ART EXHIBITION

When: May 14 through May 27, 2016


Site: **Gallery at the Mexican Cultural Institute of
Los Angeles**

El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historic Monument
125 Paseo de la Plaza
Los Angeles 90012

Cost: Free and open to the public

Info: A multi-media exhibition of work created by young people
and adults participating in *The Big Read Program* in
Los Angeles, Mexico, and Italy. This international
collaboration, organized by the Mexican Cultural Institute
in Los Angeles, brings together art and literature, using
Fahrenheit 451, Ray Bradbury's seminal story about a
society where books are outlawed, as its primary source
material. This showcase of art work spans geographical
borders, overcomes language barriers, and challenges the
notion of artistic and intellectual freedom and expression.

For more information, please call 213.485.0221, or e-mail:
mm_mcila@earthlink.net.



**THERE ARE WORSE CRIMES
THAN BURNING BOOKS. ONE OF
THEM IS NOT READING THEM.**

~RAY BRADBURY

“THE BIG READ IS A CATALYST FOR COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION, CIVIC ENGAGEMENT, AND A CELEBRATION OF LOS ANGELES CULTURE THROUGH LITERATURE AND ART.”

A DAY OF BOOKS, WORDS, AND ART AT CENTRAL LIBRARY FESTIVAL CELEBRATING RAY BRADBURY

When: May 21, 2016
11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Site: **Central Library**
Mark Taper Auditorium and Thornton Courtyard
630 West Fifth Street
Los Angeles 90071

Cost: Free and open to the public

Info: Books and art converge at this festival, celebrating Ray Bradbury, one of Los Angeles' most prolific and creative writers. In 2012, Bradbury was posthumously honored with a Public Square for his life-long patronage and support of the Los Angeles Public Library.

The program will feature a film screening of the motion picture adaptation of *Fahrenheit 451*, art making, and community booths. **A special lecture about the legendary Ray Bradbury will be presented by official Bradbury biographer, Sam Weller.**

Sam Weller is the authorized biographer of the late writer Ray Bradbury. Weller's book, *The Bradbury Chronicles: The Life of Ray Bradbury*, was a *Los Angeles Times* best seller, winner of the 2005 Society of Midland Authors Award for Best Biography, and a Bram Stoker Award finalist. The companion book, *Listen to the Echoes: The Ray Bradbury Interviews*, was published by Melville House/Stop Smiling Books in 2010. With Mort Castle, Weller co-edited the anthology *Shadow Show: All-New Stories in Celebration of Ray Bradbury* (William Morrow Paperbacks, July 2012), winner of the Bram Stoker Award for "Superior Achievement in Anthology." In June 2015, IDW Comics published the graphic novel adaptation of *Shadow Show*.

The Los Angeles Public Library provides free and easy access to information, ideas, books, and technology that enrich, educate, and empower every individual in our city's diverse communities.

For more information, please visit BigReadLA.org, or call 213.202.5567.



**The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in partnership with Arts Midwest.
For more information, visit BigReadLA.org and NEABigRead.org.**



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