

2016 BIG READ

PROGRAM IN LOS ANGELES



LOS ANGELES POET LAUREATE LUIS RODRIGUEZ

The Big Read Program in Los Angeles celebrates the written word with Los Angeles Poet Laureate, Luis Rodriguez.

Luis Rodriguez was chosen to be Poet Laureate by Mayor Eric Garcetti in 2014. His poetry book, *My Nature is Hunger*, won the 2005 Paterson Book Award. His 1993 memoir *Always Running, La Vida Loca, Gang Days in L.A.*, with close to half a million copies sold, became one of L.A.'s most checked out in libraries—and one of the most stolen. He has a dozen other books in poetry, children's literature, fiction, and nonfiction. He is also founding editor of the small press, Tia Chucha Press, now in its 25th year, and co-founder of Tia Chucha's Centro Cultural and Bookstore in the San Fernando Valley. His latest book, *It Calls You Back: An Odyssey Through Love, Addiction, Revolutions, and Healing*, is a finalist for the 2012 National Book Critics Circle Award.

This spring, Rodriguez introduces a new Tia Chucha Press anthology, *Coiled Serpent: Poets Arising from the Cultural Quakes & Shifts of Los Angeles*. *Coiled Serpent*, a highly anticipated anthology featuring well-known Los Angeles poets.

PEOPLE'S SONNET NUMBER 5

Luis Rodriguez

Let us dare haunting verse of the oppressed,
poems with hoodies, finger-tapping, ambling.
I mean pissed off and ardently expressed,
poems delirious as midnight rambling.
Bebop, Hip Hop, a decima or slam,
metered lyrics, free shaped texts... no matter,
bring out the fire, the punch, a resounding jam.
Let it ring far, a magnificent chatter.
Naming the nameless, voicing the unheard,
questioning the questions, swimming, splashing.
No expert strokes but damn if not expert word;
every line bleeding, grieving, pleading, slashing.
The power of poetry is its stance,
page or stage, electrifying or trance.

THE BIG READ PROGRAM IN LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION PARTNERS

The 2016 *Big Read Program in LA* consists of a diverse and dynamic array of free events and activities for young people and adults, and is presented by the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) in conjunction with our community and cultural organization partners:

- Beyond Baroque
- Boyle Heights Arts Conservatory
- California Institute of the Arts Community Arts Partnership (CAP)
- Chinese American Museum
- Central Estatal de las Artes - Ensenada / Centro Estatal de las Artes - Tecate (CEART) / Instituto de Cultura de Baja California
- Craft and Folk Art Museum
- Culinary Historians of Southern California
- Debra Disman, Artist
- Department of Cultural Affairs Neighborhood Arts and Cultural Centers:
 - Canoga Park Youth Arts Center
 - Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery, Barnsdall Park
 - Sun Valley Youth Arts Center (Stone House)
 - Warner Grand Theatre
 - William Grant Still Arts Center
- Diesel Bookstore in Brentwood
- El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument
- Families In Schools
- Grand Park / The Music Center
- LA Fire Museum, Hollywood
- LA Harbor International Film Festival
- Leimert Park Book Festival
- Libros Schmibros Lending Library
- Los Angeles County Museum of Art
- Los Angeles Public Library and the Following Branches:
 - Arroyo Seco
 - Brentwood
 - Cahuenga
 - Central Library
 - Durant
 - El Sereno
 - Granada Hills
 - Malabar
 - Memorial
 - Mid-Valley
 - North Hollywood
 - Northridge
 - Palisades
 - Palms-Rancho
 - Platt
 - Playa Vista
 - Silverlake
 - Studio City
 - Sunland-Tujunga
 - Sylmar
 - Valley Plaza
 - Vernon
 - Washington Irving
 - Watts
 - West Valley
 - Westwood
- Los Angeles Times Festival of Books
- Los Angeles Unified School District:
 - Abraham Lincoln High School
 - Belvedere Middle School
 - East Valley High School
 - Hollywood High School
 - James Monroe High School
 - Los Angeles Senior High School
 - RFK Community Schools at the Ambassador
 - Ramon C. Cortines School of Visual and Performing Arts
 - Reseda High School
 - Verdugo Hills High School
 - West Adams Preparatory Senior High
 - Westchester High School
- Louise Marler, Artist
- Luis Rodriguez, City of Los Angeles Poet Laureate
- Mexican Cultural Institute of Los Angeles
- Rancho Cordillera del Norte
- Sam Weller, Author and Authorized Bradbury Biographer
- Self Help Graphics and Art
- Sony Pictures Media Arts Program at:
 - DCA's Banning's Landing Community Cultural Center
 - DCA's Center for the Arts, Eagle Rock
 - DCA's Watts Towers Arts Center / Charles Mingus Youth Arts Center
 - DCA's William Reagh Los Angeles Photography Center
- The Museum of the San Fernando Valley
- The Music Center of Los Angeles County
- Steve Soboroff, Private Collector
- UCLA Powell Library



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everywhere #BigReadLA

