



Board of Library Trustees

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES **DATE: AUGUST 11, 2025**

FROM: RIVERSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY **WARDS: ALL**

**SUBJECT: LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY PALISADES BRANCH LIBRARY
RECOVERY EFFORTS**

ISSUE:

Discuss the recovery efforts and support initiatives for the Palisades Branch Library following the January 2025 Palisades Fire.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Library Trustees receive and file this report on the recovery efforts and support initiatives for the Palisades Branch Library following the January 2025 Palisades Fire

BACKGROUND:

The Palisades Branch Library has been a cornerstone of the community, providing essential services and a gathering place for residents since it opened in 2003. On January 8, 2025, the Palisades Branch Library was destroyed in the Palisades Fire that burned from January 7, 2025 to January 31, 2025. The recent devastation has significantly impacted both the library and the community it serves. The Los Angeles Public Library has mobilized to provide immediate support and continues to work on long-term recovery plans.

DISCUSSION:

Per the Request of the Board of Library Trustees, Library Director Christmas reached out the Los Angeles Public Library to identify ways to support the Palisades Branch Library rebuilding effort. Lauren Skinner Communications Director for the Los Angeles Public Library provided the following information.

All Los Angeles Public Libraries mobilized immediately to distribute N95 masks free to the public. Everyday library services were also needed, including charging stations, public computers, and WiFi access. Library outreach staff and the Street Fleet took swift action as well—visiting evacuation centers, shelters, and camps throughout the city, and provided resources during open hours at the Discovery Recovery Center at UCLA Research Park. In addition to providing

computers and printing access, staff signed-up people for library cards, distributed power banks and charging cables, and checked out Tech2go laptops and hotspots. In some cases, staff noted community needs and returned the next day with those items. LAPL social workers also connected with residents and provided resource referrals.

To support the efforts of rebuilding the Palisades Branch Library, the Los Angeles Public Library worked with the Library Foundation of Los Angeles (LFLA) to set up two funds to provide support. The Palisades Branch Recovery Fund allows people to contribute to efforts to continue serving the Pacific Palisades community during these challenging times. The other LFLA fund is intended to support LAPL staff who have been severely impacted by the wildfires. Several Library staff have lost their homes or sustained significant damage, and many are displaced for the foreseeable future. The Staff Emergency Support Fund will be used to help affected staff begin to get back on their feet.

The Palisades Branch Recovery Fund can be accessed at <https://lfla.org/laplrecoveryfund/> and the Staff Emergency Support Fund can be accessed at <https://lfla.org/laplstafffund/>.

Mary Hopf, Branch Manager, Palisades Branch Library, noted “We have the most beautiful memories of the Palisades Branch Library and all the people who have made it wonderful. Our library was a community center for everyone. We grew together as a community and will continue to grow and make new memories. We will heal, refresh and rebuild, and we will have a lovely library once again.”

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

Prepared by:	Angela Henson, Principal Management Analyst
Approved by:	Erin Christmas, Library Director