



Date: June 10, 2020

To: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager *T.M.*

From: Glenda Williams, Director of Library Services *G.W.*

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: **Virtual Library Summer Programs**

---

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, Long Beach Public Library (LBPL) has quickly implemented services and programs to continue to serve Long Beach residents online and to meet the educational needs of the community. This summer will be no different. LBPL is excited to launch six new exciting virtual programs: Summer Reading Club, Online Book Club, LBPL To-Go, Make.Create.Design: Video Games! workshops, Short Stories of Long Beach History Podcast, and the Teen Journal Project. Each library service is uniquely designed to be done online, yet still facilitate community and collaborative projects to build connectedness in during challenging times. Detailed information about each library service is provided below.

### **Summer Reading Club**

*Dig Deeper: Read, Investigate, Discover!*

This year's online summer reading program will run from June 13<sup>th</sup> to July 25<sup>th</sup>, and is a targeted program for kids, teens, and adults. Participants can read, track their progress, and earn badges and incentives along the way. The Facebook Live kickoff event is on Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, from 12:00 - 1:30 p.m., and will feature performances by Buster Balloon, comedy, magic, balloons and fun, and Marc Griffiths, entertaining ventriloquist. Individuals can register for the program [here](#). Additionally, each week during Summer Reading Club, the LBPL will share five short virtual programs: Craft Tuesdays, Podcast Wednesdays, Teen Thursdays, Storytime Fridays, and Science Saturdays.

### **LBPL To-Go**

As part of the City and State Phase 2 reopening measures, LBPL will begin its contactless pick-up service, LBPL To-Go, at four locations starting Tuesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>. LBPL To-Go allows library cardholders in good standing to request books and DVDs for pick-up at the following locations: Billie Jean King Main Library, Michelle Obama Library, Mark Twain Library, and Bay Shore Library. Since the pandemic began, LBPL has strived to continue to serve Long Beach residents online by providing e-books and audiobooks, job development resources, homework assistance, virtual story times, and makerspace instruction videos. LBPL To-Go allows the City to get back into the business of putting physical books and DVDs into the hands of families, seniors, and avid readers in the safest way possible.

### **Make.Create.Design: Video Games!**

Game Design workshops are recommended for teens in 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades, and will run June 30<sup>th</sup> through August 6<sup>th</sup>. The Studio team will help teens to level up their creative skills in a virtual workshop series, Make.Create.Design: Video Games! This unique program will help youth learn about the many different elements of game development: Game Design and Narrative, Game Programming, Visual Art for Games, and Game Audio and Music. These skills can be used to later develop game prototypes. In addition to weekly workshops, Open Lab Sessions will give participants the opportunity to create their own game, ask questions, and chat with professionals in the video game industry. This free workshop is open to 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> graders of all experience levels. Beginners and pros are welcome!

### **Online Book Club**

The Online Book Club is a community wide book club that allows patrons to participate in the comfort of their own home and around their busy schedules. LBPL is partnering with Overdrive to bring new titles every other month that can be downloaded as e-books or e-audiobooks to a smartphone, tablet, or computer from [LBPL's Overdrive page](#). Book club members can then head over to the LBPL [Goodreads Group page](#) to join in the discussion. This page will host librarian-led discussion questions, author interviews, and other relevant resources for each title. All that is needed to join the group is to read the book and participate in the discussion. Participants are encouraged to answer questions posted by LBPL staff, or add their own thoughts on the book as posts to the group. LBPL anticipates launching this program in the next few weeks. Individuals interested in the Online Book Club should check back on the LBPL [website](#) for more information.

### **Short Histories of Long Beach Podcast**

In this new local history podcast, LBPL's Special Collection Librarian Jeff Whalen, explores the fascinating, and sometimes unbelievable, stories that have helped make Long Beach the great and unique city that it is. Using his keen research skills and resources from the Long Beach History Special Collections, Jeff puts together true tales from our community. Each episode, Jeff invites another member of LBPL staff to join in these exciting trips through history. From Minnie the Whale to competitive flagpole sitting, each tale is full of facts and fun. Buckle up! This is not your grandmother's local history podcast! We anticipate launching this in the next few weeks, please check back on our [website](#) for more information.

### **Teen Journal Project**

The COVID-19 pandemic is one of the most notable and historic events of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Part of the mission of the Long Beach Public Library is to curate and preserve resources relating to Long Beach history. With this in mind, the LBPL has created "Life in a Time of Covid-19: A Teen Journal Project." This project is an effort to capture a snapshot of life in Long Beach during the pandemic, from which future generations can learn.

Virtual Library Summer Programs  
June 10, 2020  
Page 3

Local teens have been documenting their experiences through multimedia efforts including journals, blogs, illustrations, audio or video diaries, and zines, and donating these works to the library to be housed in the Long Beach History Collection. The entries will be retained for preservation as well as made accessible to the public on the LBPL Digital Archive.

This project not only benefits the library and future researchers, but is also a rare experience for the young adults contributing to the project. The project has invited young adults to think globally and historically, while encouraging creativity as they tell their stories. This initiative also allows teens to develop a unique understanding of historical documentation as their work becomes primary sources to future generations. LPBL anticipates launching this in the next few weeks. Individuals interested in this program should check back on the LBPL [website](#) for more information.

For additional information, please contact me at (562) 570-6016, or [Glenda.Williams@lbpl.org](mailto:Glenda.Williams@lbpl.org).

GW:ct

CC: CHARLES PARKIN, CITY ATTORNEY  
LAURA L. DOUD, CITY AUDITOR  
REBECCA GARNER, ACTING ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER  
KEVIN JACKSON, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER  
TERESA CHANDLER, INTERIM DEPUTY CITY MANAGER  
DEPARTMENT HEADS