

# 125 Reasons to Celebrate Your Library



1. Library programs are free.
2. LBPL has over 800,000 items available for checkout.
3. Any California resident can get a library card.
4. In 2017 Long Beach Public Library was awarded the nation's highest honor for a library, the National Medal from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.
5. You can access the New York Times and Los Angeles Times with your library card.
6. Learning a new language is fun and easy with Mango Languages.
7. BJK Main Library has a Center for Adaptive Technology that provides adaptive and assistive software and devices for differently abled patrons. Most of these resources are also available at Michelle Obama Neighborhood Library.
8. Long Beach has 12 library locations throughout the city.
9. We have a local history podcast called Don't Know Beach about History: Short Histories of Long Beach.
10. You can reserve a book online and pick it up at any LBPL location.
11. Adult literacy tutors are available to help learners through our LB Reads literacy program.
12. April is National Library Month in Long Beach. Every year we celebrate how public libraries can transform people's lives.
13. LB residents 19 years and older can apply to earn a high school diploma through our Career Online High School program.
14. Story time programs are offered at every LBPL location.
15. LBPL has two makerspaces – The Studio @ BJK Main Library and the LearningLab @ Michelle Obama Neighborhood Library.
16. Chromebook laptops and MiFi hotspots are available for checkout through our Tech To Go service.
17. BJK Main Library has an extensive Long Beach History Collection. Visit a small selection of it online through our Digital Archive.
18. Ebooks and downloadable audiobooks are available for instant access via Libby/OverDrive with your library card.
19. Thousands of movies and TV series are available for checkout on DVD.
20. The library catalog offers search capability in Khmer.
21. You can stream movies for free through the library's digital library using Kanopy.
22. Burnett Neighborhood Library houses the African American Resource Center special collection.
23. BJK Main Library has a Veterans Resource Center for vets and their families. VetNow is an online resource for vets available 24/7 through our digital library.
24. Wireless printing is available at the library.
25. Dive Into Reading program challenges parents and caregivers to read 1000 books with their little one before kindergarten. Incentives can be earned along the way.
26. Cuentos y Cantos is a monthly bilingual story program that visits various library locations throughout the year.

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27. The Summer Reading Program is held every year in June, July, and August. It's fun, free, and for all ages.
28. Auto repair manuals can be access online through the Chilton Library on our website.
29. If you can't find what you're looking for, you can make purchase suggestions via our website.
30. The library offers volunteer opportunities for adults and teens.
31. The Mobile Studio program takes STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) activities on the road to visit schools, parks, and community events.
32. More than 1,000,000 items are checked out from our libraries during a typical year.
33. The Friends of the Library have a book shop at BJK Main Library. They also sell a small selection of books at each neighborhood library.
34. Long Beach Public Library was founded in 1896.
35. LBPL supports the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights.
36. Family Learning Centers in our library's provide homework assistance and job skill building, with computers, printers, and an expert staff of Learning Guides.
37. In 2016 the North Neighborhood Library was renamed the Michelle Obama Neighborhood Library after First Lady Michelle Obama. This library celebrated its grand opening in its new location on September 10, 2016.
38. LBPL offers 3D printing at select locations.
39. Thousands of CDs are available for checkout and patrons can download songs and stream music online using Freegal, available through our digital library.
40. The library offers resources for refugees and immigrants.
41. 9 oil on canvas murals depicting Scenes from English Literature, painted by artist Suzanne Miller in 1937 as part of the Works Progress Administration, are on display in the BJK Main Library. These were originally installed in the original Carnegie Library building and have been moved each time the Main Library has moved.
42. Tax forms are available from the library.
43. Staff are available to assist, but we also offer self-checkout kiosks for your convenience.
44. LBPL has an app for your phone that you can use to search for items, place holds, contact the library, and more.
45. The library hosts a variety of programs virtually on our social media platforms. Follow us so you don't miss out!
46. The Miller Special Collection Room is located at BJK Main Library. Dedicated in 1978 and rededicated in 2019, the Miller Room contains rare texts dating back to the 15th century, Chinese and Japanese art and ceramics, and American and European art and photographs. The library hosts author and poetry readings and other arts and literary events in this space.
47. Librarians have Master's degrees and can help you find accurate and trustworthy information sources.

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48. Harte Neighborhood Library was named for author Bret Harte, an American short story writer and poet, best remembered for his short fiction featuring miners, gamblers, and other romantic figures of the California Gold Rush.
49. You can request book bundles for your little one. These are specially curated by our Youth Services team.
50. Checkout our monthly podcast highlighting new books for teens, Book Bites.
51. You can become a master Excel user by taking beginning, intermediate, and advanced Excel classes via Gale Course in our digital library.
52. We have grade level book lists or recommended reading for K-8<sup>th</sup> grade.
53. Long Beach teens documented their quarantine experiences in written journals, illustrations, audio or video diaries, and zines in a feature called Life in the Time of COVID: Long Beach Teen Journals. These are available on our digital archive.
54. LBPL offers classes in video game design and hosts a regular Makin' Games program.
55. Each library location has a community room (or two) available for rental.
56. Thousands of digital magazines are available to check out through Libby/OverDrive.
57. Study rooms are available at BJK Main Library, Mark Twain and Michelle Obama Neighborhood Libraries.
58. Librarians are available to make presentations to your school, parent, or community group.
59. LBPL has a book bike – the Speed Reader – that attends community events like Beach Streets.
60. Over 1 million people visit our libraries every year.
61. LBPL has a Zine collection.
62. The Mark Twain Neighborhood Library has the largest collection of books in the Khmer language in a public library in the U.S.
63. The Brewitt Library was named after Theodora Brewitt, who was City Librarian from 1921-1950.
64. BJK Main Library is a selective depository of Federal and State government documents.
65. Children are offered the opportunity to practice their reading skills by reading to dogs through a partnership with B.A.R.K.
66. In 2019 Main Library was renamed Billie Jean King Main Library after tennis legend, activist, Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient, and local Long Beach hero Billie Jean King.
67. Select LBPL locations offer a Supply-brary, which provides supplies and resources for students to successfully create school projects and presentations.
68. LBPL offers Inter Library Loan (ILL) services for items we don't own.
69. The Long Beach City Hall phone directory is answered by LBPL staff, who will connect you to the service or department that can best address your question or issue.
70. The Studio produces a regular feature called Webchat Wednesdays. In Webchats, Studio Guides interview local makers, artists, and creators about their crafts.
71. The KidSpace at BJK Main Library has an arts studio just for kids call the Studio Jr.

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72. Every library location offers computer for the public. Computers can access the internet and have MS Word and Excel.
73. LBPL hosts numerous book clubs for adults, kinds, and teens.
74. Brainfuse is a free online resource for homework help.
75. LBPL has a Homebound Readers Services that provides library materials to patrons living in Long Beach who are confined to their homes by an illness or injury, either chronic or temporary.
76. Teens can complete required service learning hours at our libraries.
77. You can research your family tree using Ancestry at the library.
78. Over 4,000 library programs are offered at our libraries each year and more than 75,000 people attend.
79. Pages are staff members who shelve new books, reshelve older books, and “read” our shelves to make sure everything is in order. It’s a great entry level job for young adults, a wonderful opportunity for retired folks, or a steady PT gig for anyone in between.
80. Banned Books Week is celebrated annually the last week of September.
81. LBPL’s collection will always include works representing diverse voices, opinions, cultures, and world views.
82. Mark Twain and Michelle Obama Neighborhood Libraries each have a community garden.
83. LBPL offers computer classes and one on one assistance in our Family Learning Centers.
84. Sewing machines and sewing classes are available in the library’s makerspaces.
85. Many children’s programs include a make & take craft to allow the fun to continue at home.
86. Readers’ advisory is a huge part of what librarians can do. Let us know what you like to read and we’ll recommend your next favorite book.
87. The library is a safe space.
88. Over 1 million items are checked out of our libraries annually.
89. Reading tables with convenience outlets to charge devices are available at every LBPL location.
90. LBPL is fortunate to have two agencies to help support our service to the community – LBPL Foundation and the Friends of the Long Beach Public Library.
91. LBPL operates twelve libraries in Long Beach.
92. The new BJK Main Library is 94,000 square feet.
93. Mark Twain, Michelle Obama, and BJK Main Libraries are all LEED certified buildings.
94. Bach Neighborhood Library was named after Ruth Bach, Councilwomen for the 5<sup>th</sup> District in the 1950s and mother of Richard Back who penned Johnathan Livingston Seagull.
95. World Book Encyclopedia is available online through the library’s website.
96. BJK Main Library has a Media Lab and small recording studio.
97. LBPL has launched a Youth Poet Laureate program for teens in Long Beach.
98. Picture This and Chapter Chat are monthly virtual programs that highlight new books for children.
99. Vida Latina is our annual celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. We host programs Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> - Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> that honor the cultures and contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans.

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100. Alamitos Library at 1836 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> St. became a historic landmark in 2016. Built in 1928, the Spanish Colonial Revival building features hand painted ceiling beams, wrought iron railings, window grates, and terra cotta tile.
101. Dana Neighborhood Library was named after Richard Henry Dana Jr., who sailed out of Boston in 1834 on the *Pilgrim* to the California coast and later wrote *Two Years Before the Mast*.
102. Three LBPL libraries reside on park land, BJK Main Library, Bach and El Dorado neighborhood Libraries. Mark Twain Library used to reside in MacArthur Park but moved into a much larger, new building across the street from the park in 2007.
103. Thousands of video on demand classes are available for free on Udemy, a resource included in our digital library.
104. The Marilyn Horne archival collection is part of the special collections housed at BJK Main Library. Marilyn Horne, an American mezzo-soprano opera singer, is a recipient of the National Medal of Arts, the Kennedy Center Honors, and has won four Grammy Awards. She is an alumna of Long Beach Polytechnic High School.
105. BJK Main Library hosts an annual Halloween parade throughout the library. Kids along with their parents and caregivers are invited to dress up and parade through the library making stops at various desks to receive snacks and small prizes.
106. LBPL joins the Friends of the Long Beach Public Library annually when they march in the Daisy Avenue Christmas Tree Lane parade and the Pride and Martin Luther King, Jr. parades.
107. Brewitt library is our smallest branch at 5,225 square feet. BJK Main Library is the largest at 94,000 square feet.
108. More than 250,000 computer sessions are provided annually at our libraries and over 200,000 wifi sessions.
109. Historic local Long Beach newspapers are available to read and research via Newspapers.com on the library website.
110. Artist James Mulligan painted a series of Wizard of Oz murals as part of a community art project at the Burnett Neighborhood Library.
111. LBPL hosts annual events to celebrate Dictionary Days, when every 3<sup>rd</sup> grader in LBUSD receives a dictionary made possible by generous support of the Miller Foundation and the Long Beach Public Library Foundation.
112. For decades, a “reading bathtub” could be found in the children’s room at Main Library. When BJK Main Library opened in 2019, the bathtub was replaced by a “reading boat”.
113. Michelle Obama Neighborhood Library was built on the former site of the Atlantic Theater. The Art Deco spire of the old theater was incorporated into the library’s design and you can still see it lite up at night.
114. The community rooms at BJK Main Library and Michelle Obama Neighborhood Library have been equipped with hearing loops. A hearing loop, sometimes called an audio induction loop, is a special

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- type of sound system for use by people with hearing aids that provides a magnetic, wireless signal that is picked up by the hearing aid when it is set to 'T' (Telecoil) setting.
115. In 2019/20 LBPL partnered with the city's Health Department to pilot a social worker program in 2 libraries.
  116. Several libraries form Teen Advisory Groups who provide invaluable feedback about teen programs and services offered at the libraries.
  117. LBPL offers a huge selection of graphic novels and comics both in our libraries and online.
  118. College prep and scholarship information is readily available on our website and digital library. Library locations also host college and career fairs throughout the year.
  119. LBPL hosts bilingual programs for children and adults.
  120. Advanced software programs including Adobe Creative Suite, 3D modeling, and video editing is available at BJK Main Library and Michelle Obama Neighborhood Library.
  121. BJK Main Library has a lounge just for teens.
  122. LBPL Librarians select all materials purchased for the library's collection.
  123. The library publishes a newsletter called LBPL Connect. You can sign up for it through LinkLB on the city's website.
  124. You can check out 25 items at a time.
  125. The Long Beach Public Library connects people, inspires ideas, and transforms lives.