



The Department of Cultural Affairs' 2017 Big Read Program in Los Angeles

A catalyst for community participation, civic engagement, and a celebration of Los Angeles culture through literature and art.

The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) designed to restore reading to the center of American popular culture. The NEA presents The Big Read in partnership with Arts Midwest. Generous support is also provided by Sony Pictures Entertainment. The Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) and the NEA hope to unite communities through literature and intra-cultural connections, as well as to inspire teens to become life-long readers with the 2017 Big Read Program in Los Angeles.

DCA has been awarded Big Read grants from the NEA since the inception of the program in 2007/08. 2017 will mark DCA's ninth year of programming its **Big Read Program in Los Angeles** with a selection of poetry by Emily Dickinson. The Big Read will serve as an entry point for dialogue, creative programming, and cultivating new and long-standing alliances between community organizations and the arts across Los Angeles.

The **Big Read Program in Los Angeles** consists of community reading groups from October 2016 to May 2017, and related public activities and events from September 2016 to June 2017, and is presented by DCA in conjunction with partner community and cultural organizations that include some of DCA's Neighborhood Arts and Cultural Centers (Canoga Park Youth Arts Center; Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery, Barnsdall Park; Sun Valley Youth Arts Center; Vision Theatre; Warner Grand Theatre; Watts Towers Arts Center; and William Grant Still Arts Center), the Anne Douglas Center for Women- the Los Angeles Mission, the Culinary Historians of Southern California, El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument, the Museum of the San Fernando Valley, Libros Schmibros Lending Library, the Los Angeles Public Library, the Los Angeles Unified School District, KAOS Network, Leimert Park Village Book Fair, The Music Center, Self Help Graphics & Art, Downtown's Grand Park, the LA Harbor International Film Festival, CalArts Community Arts Partnership, the Los Angeles Poet Laureate, GR818ers, and many more. Participating artists, poets, and historians include: Ben Caldwell, Linda Civitello, Rachel Curry, traci kato-kiriyama, Beth Peterson, Nathalie Sanchez, Joseph Saenz, Mike "The PoeT" Sonksen, and more.

A civic ceremony at the historical Los Angeles City Hall is held annually at the end of March to proclaim the month of April, 2017 as "**Literature and Poetry Month Celebrating the Department of Cultural Affairs' Big Read Program in Los Angeles.**" The public is invited to participate in the many free activities offered by the program partners, such as walking tours, lectures, panel discussions, film screenings, cooking demonstrations, music concerts, animation courses, live readings, poetry recitals, writing workshops, and museum tours.

For more information about DCA's **Big Read Program in Los Angeles**, please call 213.202.5567, or email elizabeth.morin@lacity.org.

Celebrating reading, poetry, LA authors, and the work of Emily Dickinson

culturela.org
BigReadLA.org
neabigread.org

Civic Ceremony for Proclamation of April 2017 as Literature and Poetry Month in Los Angeles

**LITERATURE AND POETRY MONTH CELEBRATING THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS'
BIG READ PROGRAM IN LOS ANGELES**

Los Angeles City Hall Council Chamber

When: March 24, 2017
10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Site: **Los Angeles City Council Chamber**
Los Angeles City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Cost: Free and Open to the Public

Info: Join the Los Angeles City Council at an official Proclamation Ceremony in recognition of **Literature and Poetry** through DCA's 2017 **Big Read Program in Los Angeles**. This civic event highlights the power and place of the written word and its ability to kindle conversation and ignite imagination.

The event will be followed by a reception and a program, featuring poetry by students of St. Bernard High School and other special guests. This event will inspire with its celebration of words and language.

Join students, schools, and cultural partners as the Los Angeles City Council and other elected officials recognize DCA's **Big Read Program in LA** sponsored by the **NEA Big Read**.

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

Media Arts Program for Young People and Student Film Screenings

SONY PICTURES MEDIA ARTS PROGRAM

When: October 2016 to June 2017

Sites: **Banning's Landing Community Cultural Center**
100 East Water Street
Wilmington, CA 91303

Center for the Arts, Eagle Rock
2225 Colorado Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90041

Charles Mingus Youth Arts Center
10620 Graham Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90002

Pacoima City Hall
13520 Van Nuys Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 91331

William Reagh Los Angeles Photography Center
2332 West Fourth Street
Los Angeles, CA 90057

Cost: Free

Info: Students from all over Los Angeles participate in this media arts program. Students will read *The Collected Poems of Emily Dickinson* and create original short films, which will be screened at the culminating event.

This 30-week, tuition-free media arts program, held after-school twice a week, is for middle school students aged 10 to 14. Students learn drawing and painting techniques and how to draw from a model, animate, put together an art portfolio, and create artwork on computers. The program culminates in a public exhibition and screening of the artwork produced by the students. This program is part of the Sony Pictures Media Arts Program, a partnership between the CalArts Community Arts Partnership, the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA), and Sony Pictures Entertainment.

For more information, please call 661.222.2708.

Community Cultural Partnership Programming

FALL INTO LITERACY BOOK FESTIVAL

United Way of Greater LA

When: October 1, 2016
10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Site: **Banning Residence Museum**
401 East M Street
Wilmington, CA 90744

Cost: Free and open to the public

Info: "Fall into Literacy" is an annual community book festival, organized by the United Way of Greater Los Angeles that promotes reading. Event includes community booths representing local schools, civic services, social services, recreation programs, the arts and more. Festival activities include a stage with live entertainment, face painting, informational presentations, food vendors, book signings, book vendors, and targeted activities for early learning, teens, and the community in general. Festival focus in the geographic Harbor area.

The Big Read materials distributed at the festival include information for participation in the 2017 NEA Big Read Program and coloring posters for children.

The festival takes place on the grounds of the historic Banning Residence Museum and will include tours of the museum, led by educators and docents.

QUILTMaking WITH POETRY

Canoga Park Youth Arts Center

Date: January 3 – February 25, 2017
Thursdays, 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Site: **Canoga Park Youth Arts Center**
7222 Remmet Avenue
Canoga Park, CA 91303

Cost: Free

Info: The project will organized and implemented by instructors Donna Zanella and Laura Peisner. The class participants will be a group of 25 students ages 12 – 17. The workshops will meet once a week for 6 weeks. The students will read the book and select a poem that resonates with them. They will choose one stanza from the poem to inspire their artwork. Another inspiration for the project will be quilting. In the time period that Emily Dickson lived, quilting was an important social activity for women in which local news and ideas were communicated.

The students will create a square artwork using canvas, fabric and paint. The finished piece will be a painted collage including text from the poem. The finished squares will be assembled like a quilt to create a large wall mural.

Come to Downtown's Bookfest on March 11, 2017 to visit the pop-up installation of the quilt and to enjoy artwork created by youth, inspired by the work of Emily Dickinson.

For more information, visit <http://www.canogaparkyouthartcenter.com/>

ART AFTERSCHOOL – ART AND LITERATURE

Sun Valley Youth Arts Center

Date: January 28 – February 25, 2017
Saturdays, 10:30 am – 12:00 pm

Site: **Sun Valley Youth Arts Center**
8642 Sunland Boulevard
Canoga Park, CA 91352

Cost: Free

Info: We are pleased to offer this Art and Literature class, made possible by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest.

Youth will read “The Collected Poems of Emily Dickinson’ to inspire them in creating a work of art. All participants will receive a free copy of the book. Students will utilize a variety of mediums to create their Art & Literature project. The final artwork will be exhibited in a municipal gallery, which will be announced at a later date. Class led by instructors Allegra Ché and Adriana Franco.

Sun Valley Youth Arts Center is a facility of the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs. It is listed in the register of Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monuments (#644). Known as the “Stone House,” the structure’s exterior surface is covered by native river rock and gives it its distinguished character. The Arts Center opened in November, 2006, as a Proposition K site with a mission to provide arts instruction and arts program to young people. The site consists of two structures, the main building (“Stone House”) and an art studio. The Stone House’s art programs are taught by dedicated and experienced artists and art instructors. The center offers exhibitions, special cultural events, and a regular schedule of studio art classes for participants of all ages throughout the year.

For more information, visit culturela.org, or call 818.252-4619

THE BELLE OF AMHERST: THE UNTOLD STORY OF EMILY DICKINSON

Grand Vision Foundation

When: February 26, 2017
2:00 pm

Site: **Grand Vision Annex**
434 West 6th Street
San Pedro, CA 90731

Cost: There is a cost for this event, limited tickets available

Info: A one-woman performance, starring actress Melanie Jones, about American poet, Emily Dickinson, by William Luce. Event includes an afternoon tea party with Ms. Jones after the play.

The Grand Annex is that rarest of neighborhood gems: an intimate and beautiful space where Los Angelenos enjoy world class talent in the midst of a thriving historical arts district. Recently renovated and thoughtfully curated, the Grand Annex offers consistently excellent performances ranging from Roots Rock to Jazz and World Rhythms. State of the art lighting and sound enhance a unique listening experience, complimented by cabaret tables, a well-stocked beer and wine bar and a commitment to community. At the Grand Annex, it's all about the music.

For details, call 310 833 4813 or visit Grandannex.org

THE BELLE OF AMHERST: THE UNTOLD STORY OF EMILY DICKINSON

Grand Vision Foundation

When: March 1, 2017
10:00 am

Site: **Grand Vision Annex**
434 West 6th Street
San Pedro, CA 90731

Cost: Free and Open to Public Schools
(Please call Grand Annex to register your school in advance.)

Info: A one-woman performance, starring actress Melanie Jones, about American poet, Emily Dickinson, by William Luce. This performance is presented for local students, including those at Port of Los Angeles High School and City of Angeles Independent Studies High School (LAUSD). City of Angeles students are also community action volunteers with ACT5! Community non-profit.

The Grand Annex is that rarest of neighborhood gems: an intimate and beautiful space where Los Angelenos enjoy world class talent in the midst of a thriving historical arts district. Recently renovated and thoughtfully curated, the Grand Annex offers consistently excellent performances ranging from Roots Rock to Jazz and World Rhythms. State of the art lighting and sound enhance a unique listening experience, complimented by cabaret tables, a well-stocked beer and wine bar and a commitment to community. At the Grand Annex, it's all about the music.

For details, call 310 833 4813 or visit Grandannex.org call for details 310.833.4813

FROM HER EXHIBITION: "LATINAS IN OUR COMMUNITIES: WOMEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE"

El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument

When: March 9 – April 9, 2017
Gallery hours are: Thursday – Sunday, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm
(Gallery is closed Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday)

Closing Reception: March 30, 2017, 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm.

Site: **Biscailuz Gallery**
125 Paseo de La Plaza
El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument
Los Angeles 90012

Info: FROM HER is an exhibition in honor of National Women's History Month. This year's theme is "Latinas in Our Communities: Women Making a Difference." Artists were invited to submit original pieces in various media that celebrate and commemorate Latina women who have gone above and beyond as leaders and change makers, in history and present day.

Latina women have made major contributions and remarkable strides as leaders in the fields of education, the arts and music, business, community advocacy, social justice, environmentalism, politics, and many more. There are countless Latinas who exemplify leadership in their families and communities.

The NEA Big Read Program in LA has partnered with El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument to celebrate the work of a seminal voice, Emily Dickinson, whose work and spirit are on par with those featured in the exhibition.

Join us on Thursday, March 30th for a closing reception, featuring a special performance and poetry recital. Refreshments will be served.

The Biscailuz building is named after Eugene Biscailuz, a former Los Angeles County Sheriff, who helped Christine Sterling in her struggle to save this historic section of Los Angeles. In 1979, Leo Politi painted a mural on the south and east facades that depicts the annual Blessing of the Animals.

El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument is near the site of the early Los Angeles pueblo or town where forty-four settlers of Native American, African and European heritage journeyed more than one-thousand miles across the desert from present-day northern Mexico and established a farming community in September 1781. Today, as a department of the City of Los Angeles, El Pueblo Historical Monument is a living museum that continues to fulfill its unique role as the historic and symbolic heart of the city.

For more information, contact elpueblo.exhibits@gmail.com.

GRAND PARK'S DOWNTOWN BOOKFEST

Grand Park in Downtown LA

When: March 11, 2017
12:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Site: **Grand Park in Downtown LA**
200 North Grand Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Cost: Free and Open to the Public

Info: In collaboration with the City of Los Angeles' NEA Big Read, honoring the poetry of Emily Dickinson, Grand Park's Downtown Bookfest turns Dickinson's poetry inside out with performances by Cut Chemist + Hymnal, David Prather and Mayda Del Valle. Free hands-on activities include creating your own pieces of poetic genius with PUBLISH! by Writ Large Press, constructing handmade books using dried plant specimens, a photo booth with Victorian-era props and prose, free writing advice, 826LA's never-ending story, and pop-up bookshops for literary lovers big and small.

FAMILY STAGE PERFORMANCES:

Celebrating emerging and established L.A. artists and voices. Hosted by Mayda Del Valle.

12:15pm – 12:35pm Get Lit Players

12:45 – 1:45pm David Prather's Poetry Jam (Music Center on Tour)

2:00pm – 2:20pm St. Bernard High School Emily Dickinson Response Poems

2:20pm – 2:40pm Write Your Own L.A. Poem Workshop

3:00pm – 4:00pm Cut Chemist + Hymnal: Words + Beats

4:05pm – 5:00pm Readings of Red Hen Press Poets Brendan Constantine, Kim Dower, Blas Falconer, Siel Ju, and Ron Koertge.

ACTIVITIES BY L.A.'s BEST READERS and WRITERS:

The Writer Is In: Grand Park's Teaching-Writer-in-Residence and LUNCHTIME! Writers' Meetup facilitator traci kato kiriyama offers free writing consultation to dislodge any blocks, offer advice, or give words of encouragement.

Emily's BIG READ: The City of L.A. Department of Cultural Affairs leads Big Read activities exploring the life and times of Emily Dickinson, including a book-making workshop inspired by Dickinson's collection of 400 plant specimens, creating personal treasures with magnetic poetry in a tin box, and a poetry photo booth with Victorian-era props and prose. Be sure to check out the temporary installation of a quilt created by students of the Canoga Park Youth Arts Center. This exhibition is the culmination of weeks-long class in which youth read the poetry of Emily Dickinson and created the quilt as group work of art.

Write Where You Are: Create your own L.A. poem in an activity taught by three generations of L.A. poets, including Mike "The Poet" Sonksen and traci kato-kiryama.

Let it NEVER-EVER End: Stop by 826LA and the Time Travel Mart to pick up goods or leave your mark in their never-ending story.

PUBLISH! and Deconstruct Emily: Dickinson's poems get refashioned, reordered, and reinvented via vintage typewriters in a activity led by Writ Large Press

Discover the Work: Take home new finds at the Red Hen Press , Skylight Books, and Get Lit Publications pop-up bookshops.

Get Crafty: Paper art-making with Ryman Arts.

Finally Get That Library Card! Sign up and learn about the County of Los Angeles Public Library and Los Angeles Public Library

Whatever Pops In: Share your stories and thoughts at the KTLA Mobile Kiosk

Information subject to change

For more information about Grand Park's Downtown Bookfest, please visit grandparkla.org/bookfest.

TEEN BOOK AND WRITING CLUB

William Grant Still Arts Center

When: March 17 – May 5, 2016
4:30 pm – 6:00 pm

Site: **William Grant Still Arts Center**
2520 South West View Street
Los Angeles, CA, 90016

Cost: Free

Info: An 8 week program that focuses on strengthening reading, writing, analytical and comprehension skills through *Fahrenheit 451*. Teens will be led by a professional writer, discussing the themes in the book and guided to write their own reflections through short prose or poetry on the ways that they see utopian and dystopia futures. Their writings will then be turned into a handmade book.

For more information, please call 323.734.1165.

FILM SCREENING OF "THE BELLE OF AMHERST"

LA Harbor International Film Festival (LAHFF)

When: March 18, 2017
2:00 pm

Site: **Warner Grand Theater**
478 West 6th Street
San Pedro, CA 90731

Cost: Free and open to the public (Big Read film screening is free; all other screenings require an admission ticket, www.brownpapertickets.com - telephone (800) 838-3006; or Warner Grand Theatre (WGT) box office one hour prior to screening cash sales only

Info: The 14th annual LA Harbor International Film Festival hosts a special screening of the 1976 television special, "The Belle of Amherst," starring Julie Harris. A limited quantity of free books available, visit laharborfilmfest.com. Film screening will be followed by a book to film discussion.

The LAHIFF takes place March 16-19, 2017, at the vintage art deco Warner Grand Theatre, one of the original Warner Brothers "triplets" in Los Angeles. It was dedicated in 1931 by Jack Warner who told the audience, "You will enter the castle of your dreams." The Warner Grand Theatre is a Los Angeles landmark, included in the National Register of Historic Places, and a stellar example of art-deco/moderne style. The theater is owned by the City of Los Angeles and managed by the Department of Cultural Affairs.

Public parking lots and metered street parking are available from 5th to 9th Streets, between Pacific and Mesa. Arrive early and explore San Pedro's many dining venues within walking distance of the WGT.

For more information and program schedule, please visit: laharborfilmfest.com.

POSTERMAKING

Self Help Graphics

When: March 25, 2017
12:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Site: **Self Help Graphics & Art**
1300 East 1st Street
Los Angeles, CA 90033

Cost: Free

Info: This workshop will explore Emily Dickinson's affinity for flowers and gardens and how she used that theme throughout her writings. Participants will then create mono-silkscreened posters based on her works and new poems created by each participant. This is an all-ages and family-friendly activity.

Founded in 1970 in the heart of East Los Angeles, Self Help Graphics and Art is dedicated to the production, interpretation and distribution of prints and other art media by Chicana/o and Latina/o artists. Our multi-disciplinary, inter-generational programs promote artistic excellence and empower our community by providing access to space, tools, training and capital.

For more information, visit selfhelpgraphics.com

JEFF CHANG: BE ALRIGHT

Boyle Heights Arts Conservatory

When: March 31, 2017
6:00 pm

Site: **Boyle Heights Arts Conservatory**
2708 East Cesar Chavez Avenue
Boyle Heights, CA 90033

Cost: Free and open to the public

Info: The Boyle Heights Arts Conservatory welcomes you to a dynamic evening to explore the power of words, the gravity of popular culture, and the creativity and shifts taking place in our society.

Jeff Chang has written extensively on the intersection of race, art, and civil rights, and the sociopolitical forces that guided the hip-hop, including the *New York Times*, *Salon*, *Slate*, and *Buzzfeed*, among others. He is the award winning author of "Can't Stop Won't Stop: A History of the Hip-Hop Generation" and "Who We Be." His latest publication is "We Gon' be Alright." Chang was selected as a USA Ford Fellow in Literature and was named one of the "50 Visionaries Who Are Changing Your World" by the *Utne Reader*. He is the Executive Director of the Institute for Diversity in the Arts at Stanford University.

Due to the extremely popularity of this speaker, space is anticipated to fill up quickly. Advance reservations encouraged.

For more information and to reserve space, visit bharts.org or call 213.293.6170

EMILY DICKINSON AND POETRY FOR FAMILIES

Los Angeles Mission

When: April (various dates)

Site: **Anne Douglas Center for Women**
310 East Winston Street
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Cost: Free

Info: The NEA Big Read Program will lead engaging activities for families at the Anne Douglas Center for Women, including poetry reading, writing workshop, and book-making with Los Angeles artist, Rachel Curry, inspired by the work of Emily Dickinson and her nature poems in particular. The Music Center on Tour Program will present David Prathers' Poetry Jam to families and guests. For a list of dates and activities, please call 213.202.5567.

The Los Angeles Mission's Women outreach was named the Anne Douglas Center for Women in Recognition of Mrs. Kirk Douglas' long-standing compassionate generosity to the homeless.

The Los Angeles Mission exists to provide help, hope and opportunity to men, women and children in need.

For more information about the Los Angeles Mission, visit losangelesmission.org

DAVID PRATHER'S POETRY JAM

Music Center on Tour (The Music Center)

When: March and April

Site: Various sites

Cost: Free to schools and groups participating in the NEA Big Read program, celebrating the work of Emily Dickinson

Info: Select Big Read community sites and schools will enjoy David Prather's Poetry Jam. Dubbed the "Maker of Merry" by the L.A. Times, actor David Prather has shared his lively blend of improvisation, verbal wit and physical comedy with audiences from schools to concert halls across California. Whether appearing with Julie Andrews at Disney Hall as host of the L.A. Phil's Holiday Sing Along, or engaging an assembly of rapt students in a multi-purpose room, Prather makes it his mission to entertain and enlighten. He has delighted audiences at the Hollywood Bowl (where he appeared for ten seasons as 'Cap'n Dave' of Summer Sounds) and in family programs at the Getty, Skirball, and Autry Museums. Mr. Prather is a graduate of Princeton University and the American Conservatory Theatre.

David Prather's Poetry Jam is an exciting and fun examination of the joy of poetry. Using verses from Shel Silverstein, Jack Prelutsky, A.A. Milne, Mother Goose and others, Prather scoots (sometimes literally, on his razor scooter) from one hilarious poem to another. Jump rope jingles, poems that sing, hambone poetry and the classic American verse of Carl Sandburg are not forgotten, as Prather performs "jams" with a score of entertaining poems using accents, audience participation, pratfalls and physical comedy to investigate rhyme, rhythm, metaphor and the origins of poetry.

Music Center on Tour introduces students to the world of the performing art through presentations that model excellence, cultural diversity, and rich educational content. Performances serve as models of artistic excellence, inspiring creative thinking and introducing young audiences to the world's diverse cultural traditions. Our artists represent and celebrate the finest artistic contribution of the world's cultures – from the colorful regional dances of Mexico to the exquisite music of the Middle East, from the pulsating rhythms of Brazil to the golden harmonies of 20th century America.

EMILY DICKINSON, POET AND BAKER: A CULINARY HISTORY AND TASTING WITH FOOD HISTORIAN LINDA CIVITELLO

Westwood Branch Library

When: April 1, 2017
2:30 pm

Site: **Westwood Branch Library**
1246 Glendon Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90024

Cost: Free and Open to the Public
Free Parking in the Building

Info: Emily Dickinson (1830-1886) was a woman, a poet, and a baker. Join food historian Linda Civitello in an exploration of the connection between the creativity and zen of baking and of writing. What was baking like during Dickinson's lifetime? What 19th century attitudes connected to women, writing, and baking are still with us? Historic recipes, including Dickinson's, will be prepared with heirloom flours courtesy of *Grist & Toll*, Pasadena.

Linda Civitello's book, *Baking Powder Wars: the Cutthroat Food Fight That Revolutionized Cooking*, will be out in Spring 2017. Linda is also the author of *Cuisine and Culture: a History of Food and People*, which is used to teach food history in culinary schools throughout the U.S. and Canada. The first edition won the Gourmand Award for Best Culinary History Book in English (U.S.). Linda developed the curriculum and taught history of food at the Art Institutes in Los Angeles and Orange County, and Le Cordon Bleu in Pasadena; she also taught the History of Chocolate at UCLA Extension, and recorded a food and art audio tour at the Getty Museum. Linda speaks frequently on a wide range of food history topics. She has spoken at Harvard University on the history of baking powder, appeared on television on *Bizarre Foods* (Halloween, Aphrodisiacs), on NPR, and on the BBC. She is currently writing a book about *Food and Film from Prohibition to James Bond*. Linda has a B.A. from Vassar and a C. Phil. from UCLA. She also cooks professionally.

For more information, please contact: naplespastry@gmail.com.

Linda Civitello 2/21/2017 9:44 AM

Deleted: -

PRINTMAKING WITH POETRY

Boyle Heights Arts Conservatory

When: April 4, 2017
6:00 pm

Site: **Boyle Heights Arts Conservatory**
2708 East Cesar Chavez Avenue
Boyle Heights, CA 90033

Cost: Free and Open to the Public

Info: Los Angeles artist, Karla Diaz (Slanguage), will lead a poetry workshop for homeless families. Participants will produce a print featuring a poem selected from original writing this workshop

The Boyle Heights Arts Conservatory, non-profit, is dedicated to helping create pathways to careers in the music, arts, and entertainment industries and providing development for professionals of any age and at any stage of their career.

Boyle Heights Arts Conservatory supports and advocates for a new framework for viewing diversity, one that is inclusive and reflective of Los Angeles in ethnicity, age, gender, socially and economically and one that removes the barriers for equal opportunities allowing the creative arts industries to grow and thrive.

For more information, please contact: bharts.org, or call 213.293.6170

DEVELOP YOUR OWN WRITING GENIUS

Boyle Heights Arts Conservatory

When: April 5, 2017
6:00 pm

Site: **Boyle Heights Arts Conservatory**
2708 East Cesar Chavez Avenue
Boyle Heights, CA 90033

Cost: Free and Open to the Public

Info: Eric Esquivel leads youth to discover their own voice and develop their writing. Workshop for youth who may find a connection to the dark beauty of Emily Dickinson's work and their own voices.

The Boyle Heights Arts Conservatory, non-profit, is dedicated to helping create pathways to careers in the music, arts, and entertainment industries and providing development for professionals of any age and at any stage of their career.

Boyle Heights Arts Conservatory supports and advocates for a new framework for viewing diversity, one that is inclusive and reflective of Los Angeles in ethnicity, age, gender, socially and economically and one that removes the barriers for equal opportunities allowing the creative arts industries to grow and thrive.

For more information, please contact: bharts.org, or call 213.293.6170

FAMILY POETRY AND WRITING WORKSHOP WITH WRITER LESLIE SCHWARTZ

Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery Museum Education Program

When: April 8, 2017
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Site: **Barnsdall Park**
Department of Cultural Affairs, City of Los Angeles
4800 North Hollywood Boulevard
Hollywood, CA 90027

Cost: Free and Open to the Public

Info: Families will have the opportunity to create a poem or story as they learn about the interconnection between art and writing. The workshop will be led by Leslie Schwartz.

Leslie Schwartz is the author of two novels, *Jumping the Green*, winner of the James Jones Literary Society Award for best first novel, and *Angels Crest*, which was adapted to the screen and is now a Netflix favorite. Both novels have been translated into 13 languages between them. She has written for the *Los Angeles Times*, *Forbes*, *Shape*, *Self*, *Mademoiselle* and many other nationally distributed publications. Additionally, her short stories and essays have been published in dozens of literary magazines around the globe. Her latest essay was commissioned by the acclaimed *Jewish Women's Theatre* and was performed in Los Angeles and San Francisco. She is the recipient of numerous awards and fellowships, including the Kalliope Magazine Woman Writer of the Year Award, the West Hollywood Algonquin Award for Public Service in the Arts, over a dozen artists and writers residencies, as well as numerous grants and awards, including three Artist-in-Resident Grants from the Department of Cultural Affairs in Los Angeles, and most teaching stints at The Braid. A past president of PEN USA, Schwartz has worked collaboratively with many groups that sustain and support writers of color, and writers and children at risk both globally and in low-income communities of Los Angeles. She lives in Los Angeles with her family.

For more information please contact Art Instructor/Education Coordinator,
Marta Feinstein, at the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery:

lamag@lacity.org
www.lamag.org
323.644.6269

POSTERMAKING

Self Help Graphics

When: April 8, 2017
12:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Site: **Self Help Graphics & Art**
1300 East 1st Street
Los Angeles, CA 90033

Cost: Free

Info: This workshop will explore Emily Dickinson's affinity for flowers and gardens and how she used that theme throughout her writings. Participants will then create mono-silkscreened posters based on her works and new poems created by each participant. This is an all-ages and family-friendly activity.

Founded in 1970 in the heart of East Los Angeles, Self Help Graphics and Art is dedicated to the production, interpretation and distribution of prints and other art media by Chicana/o and Latina/o artists. Our multi-disciplinary, inter-generational programs promote artistic excellence and empower our community by providing access to space, tools, training and capital.

For more information, visit selfhelpgraphics.com

LOS ANGELES TIMES FESTIVAL OF BOOKS

University of Southern California

When: April 22, 2017, 10am – 6 pm
April 23, 2017, 10am – 5 pm

Site: **University of Southern Campus**
Los Angeles, CA, 90019

Cost: Free and Open to the Public

Info: The NEA Big Read Program in LA returns to the popular Los Angeles Times Festival of Books for its 22nd annual event. Join book lovers to learn, taste, be inspired, make art, shop and explore.

Stop by the Department of Cultural Affairs booth **#743** in the popular Young Adults / Kids area to learn about public, citywide, and culturally diverse *Big Read Program in LA* activities focused on this year's book selection of Emily Dickinson's poems. Visitors will receive a Big Read bookmark and other educational and cultural materials from DCA.

For more information about the Festival of Books, visit: events.latimes.com/festivalofbooks/

For more information about the Big Read booth at the Festival of Books, call 213.202.5567, or email Elizabeth.morin@lacity.org

EMILY DICKINSON POETRY PROGRAM

Leimert Park Village Book Fair

When: April 29, 2017
12 Noon - 2:00 pm

Site: **Washington Irving Library**
Community Room
4117 West Washington Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90018

Cost: Free and Open to the Public

Info: Join us at the Washington Irving Branch Public Library as we celebrate the poetic legacy of Emily Dickinson.

Activities will include poetry open mic and music. Baked desserts using Dickinson's own recipes will be served and presented by Linda Civitello, culinary historian and author.

The Leimert Park Village Book Fair was "Voted One of LA's Five Best Annual Book Festivals!" It is a much-anticipated cultural tradition in the community, taking place in Summer-time. In the past nine years, the Book Fair has had an incredible lineup of authors, poets, celebrity authors, speakers and artists, including Pulitzer Prize winners Isabel Wilkerson and Douglas A. Blackmon; prominent literary figure Ishmael Reed; New York Times best seller Eric Jerome Dickey; poet/activist Nikki Giovanni and poet/playwright Sonia Sanchez; Oscar winner Louis Gossett Jr.; along with award-winning actors like Victoria Rowell ("The Young and the Restless"); Hill Harper ("CSI: NY"); Todd Bridges (Diff'rent Strokes); Isaiah Washington ("Grey's Anatomy"); and reality stars NeNe Leakes ("Real Housewives of Atlanta"); Oscar Nominated Director and Producer Ava DuVernay; Washington Correspondent April Ryan; and writer and reality star Demetria Lucas D'Oyley ("Blood, Sweat & Heels") – just to name a few.

For more information about the Emily Dickinson event at Washington Irving Library, please visit lapl.org/branches/washington-irving.

For more information about the Leimert Park Village Book Fair, visit leimertparkbookfair.com.

EXPRESSIONS OF EMILY DICKINSON

People Street Plaza at Leimert Park

WHEN: April 30, 2017
2:00 pm to 5:00 pm

SITE: Vision Theatre
3341 West 43rd Place
Los Angeles, CA 90008

COST: Free and open to the public

INFO: In celebration of the 2017 NEA Big Read Program, poets, presenters and performers of all ages will interpret the poetry of Emily Dickinson through music, dance and spoken word.

For more information, call 323.290.2386, or email: leimertparkvisiontheatre@gmail.com

THE LEGEND OF THE "ARK OF TIME"

Leimert Park Art Walk

- When: May 28, 2017, 1 pm – 8 pm
"Art of Time" workshop 2 pm
- Site: **Leimert Park Art Walk**
West 43rd Place at Degnan
Los Angeles, CA 90008
- Cost: Free and Open to the Public
- Info: Come and learn about Los Angeles' little known history of the Sanchez Adobe in the Crenshaw area, with shadow puppets, filmmaking, and the poem, below, by SunRa.

ONCE UPON A TIME

Let the centuries be your enlightenment
Read your histories
Your history of oneness
Your history of once upon a time
once upon a time
But before once was nothing
And after once is twice
Never before the once
And twice to presence of never
The pleasant nothing of never
For nothing
And nothing from nothing leaves
Nothing
And one from nothing leaves
Nothing
And two from two leaves nothing
And three from three leaves nothing
And everything from everything leaves nothing
And nothing from nothing inverted leaves
Everything
So if one sends one
There is nothing
For one from one
Leaves nothing
There is nothing in the never land
Of Never.

ANIMATED FILM SCREENING

Sony Pictures CalArts CAP Media Arts Program

When: June 10, 2017
1:00 pm

Site: **Barnsdall Gallery Theater**
Barnsdall Art Park
4800 Hollywood Boulevard
Los Angeles CA 90027

Cost: Free and Open to the Public

Info: A curated selection of animated shorts created by students of the Sony Pictures Media Arts Program. The films are inspired by the poetry of Emily Dickinson, this year's NEA Big Read featured author. The screening of these animated short films is the culmination of the program.

The films created by middle and high school students who participate in the year-round Sony Pictures Media Arts Program at Banning's Landing Community Center in Wilmington, Center for the Arts Eagle Rock, Pacoima City Hall, Watts Towers Arts Center, and the William Reagh Los Angeles Photography Center near MacArthur Park.

The Sony Pictures Media Arts Program is sponsored by the CalArts Community Arts Partnership (CAP) program, the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, and Sony Pictures Entertainment.

Barnsdall Park is a facility of the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA).

For more information, call 661.222.2708.

Los Angeles Public Library Reading Groups and Related Activities

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, visit lapl.org.

POETRY AND TEA WITH EMILY | March 16, 2017, 4:30 pm

Ascot
120 W. Florence
Los Angeles, 90003

READING GROUP | April 29, 2017

Chatsworth
21052 Devonshire
Chatsworth, 91311

BIG READ OPEN MIC | April 25, 2017, 6:00 pm

Exposition Park
3900 S. Western Ave
Los Angeles, 90062

AZURE LORICA EMILY DICKINSON PROGRAM | April 22, 2017, 1:30 pm

Granada Hills
10640 Petit Ave
Granada Hills, 91344

PLANT A GARDEN: INSPIRED BY EMILY DICKINSON'S POETRY | April 5, 2017, 1:00 pm and April 12, 2017, 1:00 pm

MOVIES WILL BE SHOWN RELATING TO DICKINSON AND POETRY TO FOLLOW

Hollywood
1623 N. Ivar Ave
Los Angeles, 90028

BOOK CLUB, CUMINATION TEA PARTY, VARIOUS PASSIVE DAILY PROGRAMS | May 1, 5 and 22, 2017, 4:00 pm

Lake View Terrace
12002 Osborne Street
Lake View Terrace, 91342

YA PROGRAM | March 14, 2017, 4:00 pm

Los Feliz
1874 Hillhurst Ave
Los Angeles, 90027

BOOK CLUB MEETING AND EMILY DICKINSON CELEBRATION | April 7, 2017, 1:00 pm and April 22, 2017, 11:00 am
Memorial
4625 W. Olympic Blvd
Los Angeles, 90019

POETRY MOMENT IN THE LIBRARY | Everyday in April, 3:00 pm
LIBRARIAN WILL READ AN EMILY DICKINSON POEM A DAY
North Hollywood
5211 Tujunga Ave
North Hollywood, 91601

ADULT BOOK CLUB | 2nd Tuesday of the month, 1:00 pm
Northridge
9051 Darby Ave
Northridge, 91325

YA ARTS AND CRAFTS: SIMPLE BOOK | April 10, 2017, 4:00 pm
Panorama City
14345 Roscoe Blvd
Panorama City, 91402

ALL AGE EMILY DICKINSON POETRY READING | March 11, 2017, 6:30 pm
Studio City
12511 Moorpark Street
Studio City, 91604

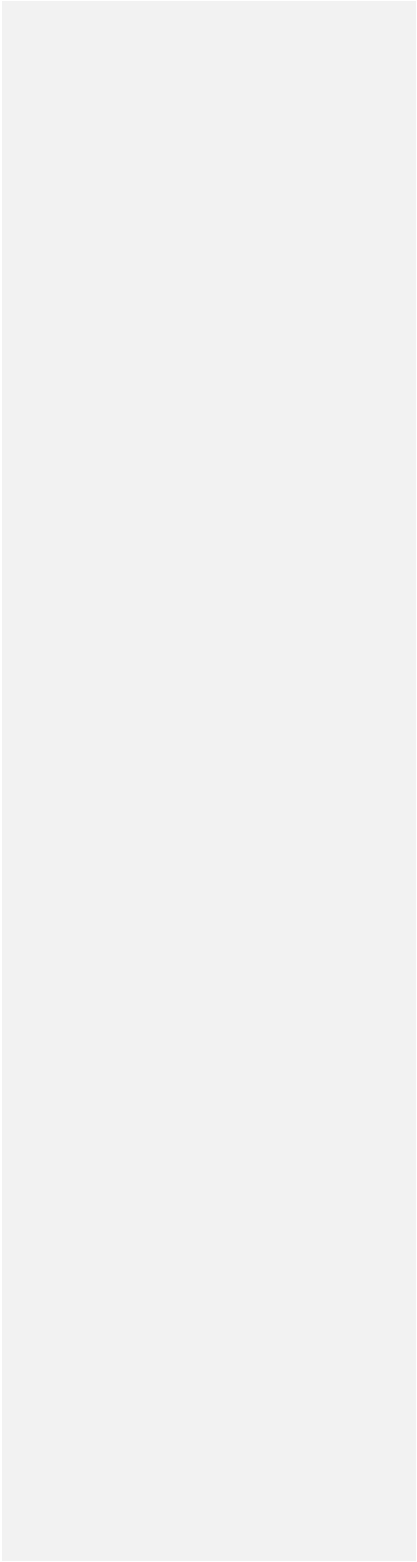
YA PROGRAM | April 20, 2017, 4:00 pm -5:30 pm
Sunland-Tujunga
7771 Foothill Blvd
Tujunga, 91042

POETRY IN YOU: CELEBRATING THE POETRY OF DICKINSON | April 13, 2017, 3:30 pm
Sylmar
14561 Polk Street
Sylmar, 91342

READING AND DISCUSSION DICKINSON'S POETRY | April 18, 2017, 1:00 pm
Valley Plaza
12311 Vanowen Street
North Hollywood, 91605

ADULT / YA POETRY / TEA PARTY | March 13, 2017, 11:00 am
West Valley
19036 Vanowen Street
Reseda, 91335

LINDA CIVITELLO – FOOD HISTORIAN AND AUTHOR | April 1, 2017, 2:30 pm
Westwood
1246 Glendon Ave
Los Angeles, 90024



Programming at DCA's Neighborhood Arts and Cultural Centers

Activities at DCA's Neighborhood Arts and Cultural Centers include after-school art classes, writing activities, exhibitions, and film screenings. Please contact the respective center for more information at: culturela.org/cultural-centers.

The DCA Neighborhood Arts and Cultural Centers participating in the *Big Read Program in Los Angeles* include:

Barnsdall Municipal Art Gallery
4800 Hollywood Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90027

Canoga Park Youth Arts Center
7222 Remmet Avenue
Canoga Park, CA 91303

Sun Valley Youth Arts Center
8642 Sunland Boulevard
Sun Valley, CA 91352

Warner Grand Theatre
478 West 6th Street (at Pacific)
San Pedro, CA 90731

William Grant Still Arts Center
2520 South West View Street
Los Angeles, CA 90016

Vision Theatre
3341 West 43rd Place
Los Angeles, CA 90008

Watts Towers
1727 East 107th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90002

Historical Homes and Museum Partnerships

The City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs is pleased to partner with historical homes and museums for the 2017 *Big Read Program in Los Angeles*, celebrating the work of Emily Dickinson.

The Emily Dickinson Museum

The Emily Dickinson Museum comprises two historic houses in the center of Amherst, Massachusetts associated with the poet Emily Dickinson and members of her family during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The Homestead was the birthplace and home of the poet Emily Dickinson. The Evergreens, next door, was home to her brother Austin, his wife Susan, and their three children.

The Museum was created in 2003 when the two houses merged under the ownership of Amherst College. Its mission is to educate diverse audiences about Emily Dickinson's life, family, creative work, times, and enduring relevance, and to preserve and interpret the Homestead and The Evergreens as historical resources for the benefit of scholars and the general public.

The Emily Dickinson Museum

280 Main Street
Amherst MA 01002
413. 542.8161
emilydickinsonmuseum.org

Information about the Museum included herein was used by permission and quoted from the Museum's webpage.

The Banning Museum

The Banning Museum is in the heart of Wilmington. Phineas Banning, entrepreneur, the founder of the city of Wilmington, and "the Father of the Port of Los Angeles" built the 23-room residence in 1864. Subsequent generations lived in it until 1925; in 1927 the residence, stagecoach barn, and the surrounding 20 acres of parkland were acquired by the City of Los Angeles.

The residence fell into disrepair over the decades, but an intrepid group, the Friends of Banning Park (now called the Friends of the Banning Museum) spearheaded by Phineas's great-granddaughter, Nancy Banning Call, restored the mansion to its original Victorian beauty.

The Banning Museum engages visitors in a living history experience, showing how the family lived, worked, and entertained. Through its educational programs, it gives third, fourth and fifth-graders opportunities to experience life in the 19th century, enriching their curriculum

The Banning Museum

401 E. M Street
Wilmington, CA 90744
310. 548. 7777
thebanningmuseum.org

Information about the Museum included herein was used by permission and quoted from the Museum's webpage.

In-School Reading Groups

School partners are key to the success of DCA's **Big Read Program in Los Angeles** and to fulfilling the mission of the **NEA Big Read**, our nation's literacy initiative. Since 2008, the program has grown to include new schools and to reach a growing number of students in middle schools and high schools. Books read as part of the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) **Big Read Program in Los Angeles** have included: **The Maltese Falcon** by Dashiell Hammet; **The Joy Luck Club** by Amy Tan; **Sun, Stone, and Shadows: 20 Mexican Short Stories**; **The Thief and The Dogs** by Naguib Mahfouz; **Their Eyes Were Watching God** by Zora Neale Hurston; **The Namesake** by Jhumpa Lahiri; **Into the Beautiful North** by Luis Alberto Urrea; and **Fahrenheit 451** by Ray Bradbury.

Participating schools receive educational materials for teachers and students, including a Teacher's Guide, a Reader's Guide, a Big Read banner, bookmarks, and a copy of this year's book, for every student. The Big Read title is a part of the curriculum with lessons to further enrich students' experiences and interpretations of the book. Each school hosts either a related activity or event inspired by the book, such as a community festival, a film screening, an exhibition of artwork, a public reading of creative writing pieces, culinary components, field trips, artmaking sessions, and more.

Schools are part of the larger "Big Read Community" in Los Angeles, and are invited to enjoy a range of public events held throughout the city all year, with April being declared Literature and Poetry Month in celebration of DCA's **Big Read Program in Los Angeles**.

In-school reading groups feature activities, presented and organized by students, including public reading by poems written by students at the 5th Annual Bookfest at Downtown's Grand Park, on-campus community cultural festivals, and performances of an original stage-play featuring eight poems from the text, "The Collected Poems of Emily Dickinson." Each school partner hosts a reading group and an event that is inspired by the NEA title selection.

The Big Read in Schools Program promotes intra-cultural exchange, celebrates cultural connections, and fosters civic engagement. It also places an emphasis on students as catalysts for creativity and interaction.

In 2017, DCA's *Big Read Program in Los Angeles* partner schools include:

Abraham Lincoln High School

3501 North Broadway
Los Angeles, CA 90031

Students from two Small Learning Communities, VOICE (Victory Over Ignorance Through Culture and Education) and HUMANITAS will read the book as part of their curriculum. Lincoln High School has been a participant of the *Big Read Program in LA* since the initiative's inception in 2008-2009.

Lincoln High School's vision and mission are to prepare literate, responsible, and thoughtful students. Lincoln strives to graduate all students ready for college and careers.

Find out more about this year's Festival of Cultures schedule on Twitter or Instagram @voiceslc, on Facebook at facebook.com/lincolnhighvoice or atwww.lincolnhs.org

Belvedere Middle School

312 North Record Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90063

The school provides a quality, standards-based education for all students with rigorous instruction that will give them the tools to be successful in life. Students are important members of the school's learning community. They are encouraged and guided to reach their maximum potential and to be productive and civically engaged.

Belvedere Middle School activities include creative writing, music, and visual art. Students will read, discuss, and complete a double-entry; create mixed media art to capture plot elements and the novel's themes; write poetry and create relevant artwork; and host an exhibition of the immigrant experience and student's personal history.

City of Angels Independent Studies High School

221 South Eastman Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90063

Every student at City of Angels School and Online Academy will attain broad content knowledge and 21st Century skills, as described in the Schoolwide Learner Outcomes that will prepare them for college, career, and global citizenship. The mission of City of Angels School and Online Academy is to provide a standards-aligned, accessible, and individualized instructional program that will result in a high-quality education for every student.

The students participating in the NEA Big Read program are also community action volunteers with ACT5!, a community nonprofit.

Franklin High School

Benjamin Franklin Library
820 North Avenue 54
Los Angeles, CA. 90042

Benjamin Franklin High School opened its doors to students on February 17, 1916, in the Highland Park area of Los Angeles, California. Of our 1,351 students, 87% are part of the Title I program. Franklin High's mission is to educate students to be effective community members, be independent life-long learners, and be critical thinkers and problem solvers.

The Benjamin Franklin library's goal is to inspire a passion for learning that values the students' intellectual curiosity, creativity, diversity, and community involvement. The mission of our library program is to provide a welcoming environment to all students, teachers, parents, staff, and community members in which they all feel comfortable coming in to complete assignments, research, or just read a book. The librarian envisions her role as someone who encourages and guides teachers and students in their numerous intellectual quests by teaching them how to navigate through literature and technology at Benjamin Franklin. The librarian helps them meet their goals and supports their quality education.

The school's Mighty Panthers Book Club will analyze the work of Dickinson and have discussions about her poetry. Each student selects one poem to read, analyze, and share through a storyboard.

The Drama/ELD teacher will teach students about the time period in which Dickinson lived, providing a greater context to the poet and her work. Students will choose a poem to perform – as a monologue or a slam poet response.

Hollywood High School

Teaching Career Academy | Small Learning Community (SLC)
1521 North Highland Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90028

It is the mission of Hollywood High School to prepare students for post-secondary education and the workforce, and to empower students to be healthy individuals who are life-long learners and responsible community participants.

The Teaching Career Academy (TCA) seeks to create a more humane society through lifelong learning and advocacy. TCA students think critically and communicate effectively about personal, school, community and global issues in order to be college and career ready.

The focus of the Teaching Career Academy SLC is to educate students that have an interest in social science fields such as teaching, counseling, social work and psychology. Students in this SLC have the opportunity to tutor students at local elementary schools, take child development courses and attend field trips to local colleges and universities. Students are also encouraged to advocate for themselves and those less fortunate through learning opportunities provided by TCA.

James Monroe High School

9229 Haskell Avenue
North Hills, CA 91343

Monroe HS will educate its diverse student population with a rigorous, relevant curriculum, where students are continuously engaged in analysis; are empowered to express personal histories and to build meaningful connections to the outside world, and are encouraged to reflect on and access their levels of learning. Monroe's staff is committed to:

Establishing a culture that promotes autonomy and a strong inclusive community built through relationships that value diversity and provide a safe environment where student, staff and parents feel welcome, respected, and are afforded multiple opportunities to excel in academic, artistic, athletic, and professional areas

Promoting leadership that is collaborative, shared, supportive, competent, effective, transparent, and focused on meeting the needs of the school and strengthening our vision

Ensuring instruction that is rigorous, creative, and relevant to the needs of the students and the demands of tomorrow's work force and secondary institutions.

Mervyn M. Dymally High School - Academy for Multilingual Arts & Sciences

8800 South San Pedro Street
Los Angeles, CA 90003

Mervyn M. Dymally High School provides excellent teaching through an eclectic approach with an emphasis on language instruction, liberal arts, and sciences. The school community promotes critical thinking and problem solving while connecting with student's current lives and cultural and linguistic roots. Students graduate as bilingual, bi-literate, and multi-cultural thinkers who bring their intellectual curiosity into college and the work force. Mervyn M. Dymally High School creates this community of learners through purposeful culture-building, research based teaching methodology, and high standards for the staff, as well as, for the students we teach.

For the NEA Big Read Program in LA, the Dymally Drama Club will compose and perform an original stage-play featuring eight poems from the text, "The Collected Poems of Emily Dickinson" to celebrate the 2017 Big Read Los Angeles.

Port of Los Angeles High School

250 West 5th Street
San Pedro, CA 90731

Port of Los Angeles High School (POLAHS) is an independent, tuition-free, public charter school. The school takes great pride in its rigorous academic program, small class sizes, dedicated teachers, and safe learning environment. POLAHS' mission is to successfully educate all students by providing an innovative, college preparatory core academic curriculum with optional specializations in international business and maritime studies.

Reseda High School

18230 Kittridge Street
Reseda, CA 91335

Reseda High School is a multi-cultural learning environment that prepares our students to effectively read, listen, think, and communicate. Our teachers, staff, students, parents, and community work in an expanded partnership committed to the education and personal growth of every student.

In addition to our home school, we currently have three magnet programs: Law & Public Service, Police Academy, and Science. A fourth magnet program, Arts, Media & Entertainment, is anticipated to launch in the fall.

Students in select AP and Honors English classes will be participating in the Big Read.

St. Bernard High School

9100 Falmouth Avenue
Playa Del Rey, CA 90293

Founded in 1957 in Playa del Rey on the Westside of Los Angeles, St. Bernard High School is a co-educational, 9-12 high school, owned and operated by the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and the Western Catholic Educational Association (WCEA). The curriculum is certified college-preparatory as defined by the University of California A-G standards.

St. Bernard High School inspires students to be faith-filled disciples, passionate learners, dynamic leaders, innovative thinkers, and honorable citizens. We anchor this college preparatory education in Roman Catholic tradition and a diverse, faith-based community.

Two classes from St. Bernard will read *The Selected Poems of Emily Dickinson* for the NEA Big Read in order to create and complete a written project that will be celebrated with two culminating readings. In addition to writing in-class essays on Dickinson, 11th grade AP English Literature students are collaborating with 12th grade Creative Writing students to create a manuscript of their own original Emily Dickinson inspired response poems.

Verdugo Hills High School

Library and Research Center
10625 Plainview Ave
Tujunga, CA 91042

The Verdugo Hills Library book club, creative writing club and AP class will read this year's Big Read Program in LA selection, *The Collected Poems of Emily Dickinson*. The clubs will host a joint program and poetry reading, including local poets from the Sunland-Tujunga Village Poets and including the Sunland-Tujunga Poet Laureate.

Verdugo Hills High School is a comprehensive four-year public high school located in the scenic twin community of Sunland-Tujunga, a suburban section of northern Los Angeles nestled in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains. There are over 1400 students enrolled at Verdugo in grades 9 through 12. They range in age from 14 to 18 years. The school serves the local communities of Sunland, Tujunga, Shadow Hills, Lake View Terrace, La Tuna Canyon and parts of Sun Valley.

West Adams Preparatory High School

Library - Spoilers Book Club
1500 West Washington Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90007

The West Adams Preparatory High School Spoilers Book Club will read this year's NEA *Big Read Program* in LA selection, *The Collected Poems of Emily Dickinson*. West Adams is a comprehensive four-year public high school located in Pico-Union between South Central and Koreatown and is part of Los Angeles Unified School District. West Adams Preparatory High School currently has three small schools where scholars focus on themes in Business, Art, and STEM. There are 1600 students enrolled in grades 9-12, ranging in ages from 14 - 18 years old.

The Spoilers Book Club is a group of avid readers who gather once a week to discuss common books they read, promote literacy, and are instrumental in promoting a culture of reading here at West Adams Preparatory High School. They are a self-directed, self-governed group of high school students and not only a book club but a positive organization where students can feel safe to be themselves, express their feelings, and share their issues and concerns, as well as socialize with fellow like-minded teens in a non-judgemental bonding environment.

DCA's BIG READ PROGRAM IN LOS ANGELES

Community, Cultural and Educational Organization Partners

ACT5! Community Liaison Corp
Anne Douglas Center for Women, Los Angeles Mission
Ben Caldwell
Beyond Baroque Literary Arts Center
Boyle Heights Arts Conservatory
California Institute of the Arts Community Arts Partnership (CAP)
Linda Civitello, Culinary Historian and Author
Culinary Historians of Southern California
Rachel Curry, 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)
 Vision Theatre
 Warner Grand Theatre
 Watts Towers Arts Center
 William Grant Still Arts Center
El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument
Downtown's Grand Park
Grand Vision Foundation | The Grand Annex
KAOS Network
LA Harbor International Film Festival
Leimert Park Village Book Fair
Libros Schmibros Lending Library
Los Angeles Public Library
 Ascot
 Chatsworth
 Central Library
 Exposition Park
 Granada Hills
 Hollywood
 Lake View Terrace
 Los Feliz
 Memorial
 North Hollywood
 Northridge
 Panorama City
 Studio City
 Sunland-Tujunga
 Sylmar
 Valley Plaza
 Washington Irving

West Valley

Westwood

Los Angeles Times Festival of Books

Los Angeles Unified School District:

Abraham Lincoln High School

Belvedere Middle School

City of Angels Independent Studies High School

Mervyn M. Dymally High School

Franklin High School

Hollywood High School

James Monroe High School

Port of Los Angeles High School

Reseda High School

St. Bernard High School

Verdugo Hills High School

West Adams Preparatory Senior High

Beth Peterson

Joseph Saenz

Nathalie Sanchez

Mike "The PoeT" Sonksen

Self Help Graphics and Art

Sony Pictures Media Arts Program at:

Banning's Landing Community Cultural Center

Center for the Arts, Eagle Rock

Pacoima City Hall

Watts Towers Arts Center / Charles Mingus Youth Arts Center

William Reagh Los Angeles Photography Center

Tia Chucha's Centro Cultural and Bookstore

The Banning Museum

The Emily Dickinson Museum (Amhest Massachussetts)

The Museum of the San Fernando Valley

The Music Center of Los Angeles County



culturela.org
BigReadLA.org
neabigread.org

The Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest.

Generous support provided by **SONY Pictures Entertainment.**

